



Alnwick & Denwick

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Local people have a say



Martin Murphy
Transport



A great place to live and work



Philip Angier
Town Centre and Retail



your town – your plan – your future
2014 – 2031

Consultation Statement
July 2015

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The Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by a Steering Group of volunteers managed by Alnwick Town Council as the 'Qualifying Body' in consultation with Denwick Parish Council in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

If you would like this document in a different format or larger print size please contact :

Bill Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk, Alnwick Town Council, The Centre, 27 Fenkle Street, Alnwick NE66 1HW. Tel: 07971 810267. Email: clerk@alnwick-tc.gov.uk.

Or visit the website: www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk

Introduction

- 1.1 This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil legal obligations set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. These require that when a qualifying body submits a neighbourhood development plan to the local planning authority it must also provide a Consultation Statement. Regulation 15(2) describes what is required in a Consultation Statement. This indicates that a Consultation Statement must contain details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;
- explain how they were consulted;
 - summarise the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and
 - describe how those issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.
- 1.2 This Consultation Statement sets out:
- The background to consultation on the neighbourhood development plan for Alnwick and Denwick.
 - The publicity, engagement and consultation steps that have helped to shape and inform preparation of the Plan;
 - Details of those consulted about the Plan at the various stages of plan preparation and the extent to which efforts were made to ensure the Plan was prepared with support and input from the local community; and
 - A description of the changes made to policies as the Plan emerged in response to consultation, engagement and critical review.

1.3 The Statement concludes that the process and techniques involved in seeking community engagement and the outcomes achieved culminating in the preparation of Submission Draft Plan were extensive and appropriate to the purpose of the Plan.

- The extent of engagement is considered by Alnwick Town Council and Denwick Parish Council to at least meet the obligations set out in the Regulations.
- The Consultation Statement supports and describes the process of plan making as envisaged through the Localism Act 2011 and the associated Regulations and sets out how it has been applied in Alnwick and Denwick.
- The methods used and outcomes achieved from engagement have resulted in the submission of a better plan that, in the opinion of Alnwick Town Council and Denwick Parish Council, best meets community expectations expressed during the plan preparation and the aspirations of those Councils.
- The Statement includes information on why a Plan has been prepared; how the Draft Plan was prepared; how engagement with the community resulted in modifications to the Plan; and describes the extent of those modifications, which are apparent through a review of successive versions of the Plan and its policies.
- The Statement also describes the roles of the various parties involved in the inception of the Plan and seeks to explain why the Plan has been prepared in the manner adopted by the Town and Parish Councils with support from the local planning authority.

This is intended to help the Independent Examiner review the process of plan preparation and make any appropriate recommendations in relation to the Draft Plan having regard to the extensive and iterative processes employed in preparing the Submission Draft.

2

Background

- 2.1 The Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan has been developed by a Steering Group of volunteers with direction and support from the Alnwick and Denwick Town Councils and the local community.
- 2.2 In March 2011 Alnwick Town Council commissioned Argyle Planning Consultancy to facilitate a partner discussion event looking at the future vision for Alnwick and outlining the context for a Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.3 With the demise of the local Development Trust in 2011 and having already lost a tier of local government with the formation of a Unitary Authority in 2009, neighbourhood planning seemed like a natural successor to enhance and develop the aims of the Alnwick Community Partnership and produce a plan that will serve the towns of Alnwick and Denwick for the next 16years.

It was clear from the discussion event that there was support for neighbourhood planning and in November 2011 a Steering Group was formally established, drawing on Community Partnership members, Town and Parish councillors and other stakeholder representatives with the aim of delivering an Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan.

- 2.4 In early 2012 the Steering Group and the Community Engagement Sub-Group explored the most effective ways to reach the communities of Alnwick and Denwick looking into web-based and social media tools that would extend the availability of information beyond those who could attend a programme of consultation events. After launching a logo competition via a local advertising magazine which was delivered to every household, a logo design was agreed and shortly after this a website was commissioned.

www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk

2.5 The Plan has been developed through extensive consultation with the people of Alnwick and Denwick and other organisations and individuals with an interest in the town. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for Alnwick Town Council (The 'Qualifying Body' under the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations) and Denwick Parish Council by the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, which has been assisted throughout by officers of Northumberland County Council.

2.6 The aims of the community engagement programme are:

- To encourage participation, debate and consensus
- To provide feedback on people's involvement and the outcomes of their contribution
- To provide adequate time and information to enable participants to contribute effectively
- To select appropriate engagement methods for each activity
- To be honest about expectations and constraints
- To actively listen and be open to influence.

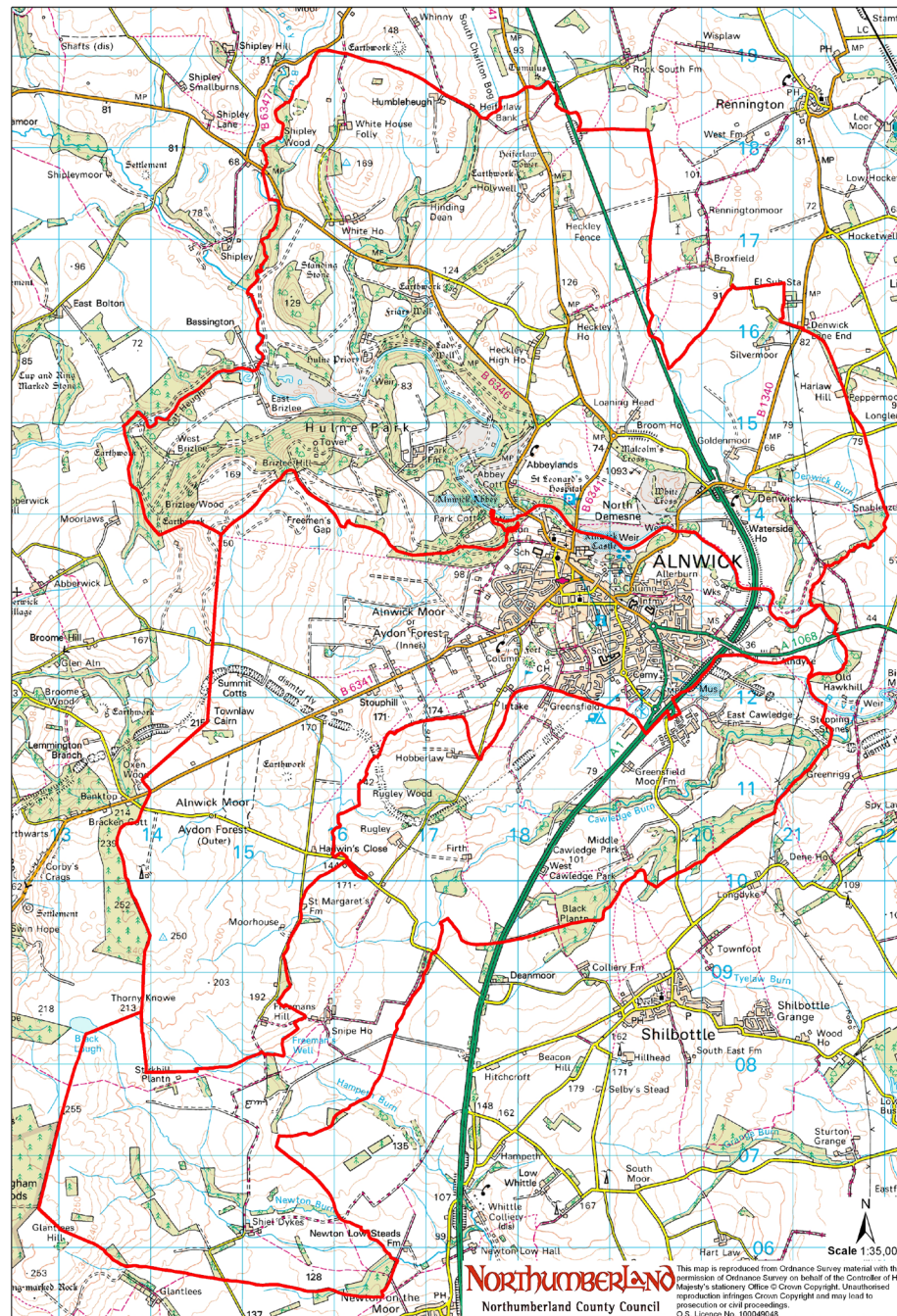
2.7 The plan preparation process involved a number of consultation stages.

In the summer of 2011 Alnwick Town Council applied for funding to be a Neighbourhood Planning Front Runner and after being successful in securing that funding decided in September 2011 to begin with the preparation of the plan. The Steering Group embarked on an initial round of consultation with residents to identify the issues facing the town and the surrounding area. This took place over the winter of 2011.

2.8 In 2012 the Steering Group began to research the issues raised and work up proposals around the possible options available. A further round of consultation was held on these issues and options in winter 2012 and the information gathered was used to prepare the draft plan over 2013/14.

- 2.9** A third round of consultation was held on the draft plan in the summer of 2014, which has resulted in amendments being made in readiness for submission of the plan.
- 2.10** Throughout the consultation different ways of keeping the community informed have been used with details of all events and activities being advertised through the local press, via the website and with the support of the local traders and community organisations.





An application for the designation of an Neighbourhood Area was applied for in June 2012.

The Neighbourhood Area was designated by Northumberland County Council in April 2013.

3

Stages of Community Engagement & Consultation

STAGE
1

Identifying the issues important to Alnwick and Denwick - *How we consulted and with whom*

28th June 11 Steering Group Meeting

2nd August 11 Steering Group Meeting

27th Sept 11 Steering Group Meeting

18th October 11 Steering Group Meeting

November Advert in the Alnwick Cryer to raise awareness

15th Nov 11 Steering Group Meeting

December Questionnaire produced and distributed to all households in Alnwick and Denwick (4,700) and partners

Website launched

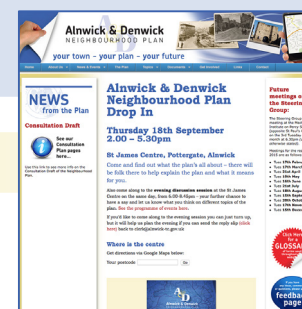
Press Release sent to newspapers

20th December 11 Steering Group Meeting



LINK TO ADVERT

LINK TO QUESTIONNAIRE



LINK TO WEBSITE



2012

17th January 12 Steering Group Meeting

27th January Stall on the Farmers' Market with Town Hall open as a drop-in.

4th February Alnwick Community Centre and Willowburn Sports Centre drop-in session

A1 DISPLAY BOARDS FOR CONSULTATION EVENTS



21st February 12 Steering Group Meeting

2nd March Denwick Parish Council public meeting

20th March 12 Steering Group Meeting

What response did we get?

Topic	1	2	3	4	5
1. What is it?	1	2	3	4	5
2. What area will it cover?	1	2	3	4	5
3. What will it do?	1	2	3	4	5
4. What is the plan for the future?	1	2	3	4	5
5. What is the plan for the future?	1	2	3	4	5
6. So what happens next?	1	2	3	4	5

688 CONSULTATION RESPONSES RECEIVED



LINK TO DOCUMENTS

How did we consider the responses?

All results & comments were considered by topic leads and used in the drafting of the issues and options sections of the plan and considered by the Steering Group.

26th March Partner Discussion Event on the issues

12th April 2012 Steering Group Meeting

25th May 2012 Steering Group Meeting

19th June 2012 Steering Group Meeting

17th July 2012 Steering Group Meeting

24th July Workshop held to discuss cross cutting issues for the Plan and start developing options'

14th August 2012 Steering Group Meeting

18th Sept 2012 Steering Group Meeting

16th October 12 Steering Group Meeting

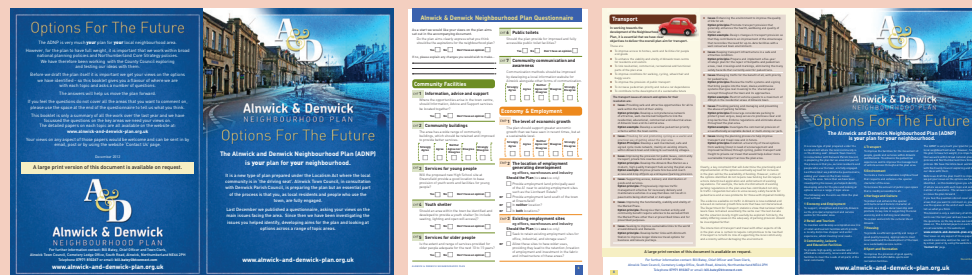
20th Nov 2012 Steering Group Meeting



STAGE
2

Issues and Options *How we consulted and with whom*

16 PAGE BOOKLET/7 PAGE QUESTIONNAIRE/8 PAGE SUMMARY
PRODUCED. ALL INFO ALSO ON WEBSITE.



PRINTED DOCS

16pp Booklet/
Questionnaire/
8pp Summary

[LINK TO DOCUMENTS](#)

Consultation Period: *Mid-December 2012 to Mid-February 2013*



Leaflet and questionnaires distributed to all households (4700) and sent to partners

Press Release

Display material /booklets/questionnaires available at selected venues e.g. Willowburn Sports and Leisure Centre, Alnwick Library, Alnwick Playhouse, Council Offices.



DOCUMENT

Partner List

[LINK TO DOCUMENTS](#)

18th
December

Community Partnership Meeting attended by partners in Council Chambers to launch issues and options consultation

22nd Dec

Market stall at Farmers Christmas market used for consultation

15th Jan 2013

Steering Group Meeting



DOCUMENT

Minutes

[LINK TO DOCUMENTS](#)

25th Jan 13 Market Stall and Town Hall used for consultation

11th Feb Public Meeting held in Denwick

16th Feb Market Stall and Town Hall used for consultation

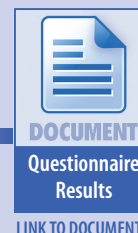
Consultation Visits to The Duchess's Community High School and Pottergate Adult Learning Centre

19th Feb 2013 Steering Group Meeting

What response did we get?

560

COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES RETURNED



How did we consider the responses?

All comments were considered by topic leads and used in the drafting of the their sections of the plan and considered by the Steering Group.

19th March 2013 Steering Group Meeting

16th April 2013 Steering Group Meeting

21st May 2013 Steering Group Meeting/Partnership Workshop rehearsal

2013

18th June

Partner Workshop held to discuss development strategy options for the plan

16th July 2013

Steering Group Meeting

20th August 2013

Steering Group Meeting

17th Sept 2013

Steering Group Meeting

15th October 2013

Steering Group Meeting

19th Nov 2013

Steering Group Meeting

17th Dec 2013

Steering Group Meeting

21st January 14

Steering Group Meeting

18th February 14

Steering Group Meeting

18th March 2014

Steering Group Meeting

15th April 2014

Steering Group Meeting

20th May 2014

Steering Group Meeting

17th June 2014

Steering Group Meeting

15th July 2014

Steering Group Meeting

**DOCUMENT**

PRESS RELEASE,
ATTENDEES
& AGENDA

[LINK TO DOCUMENTS](#)

2014

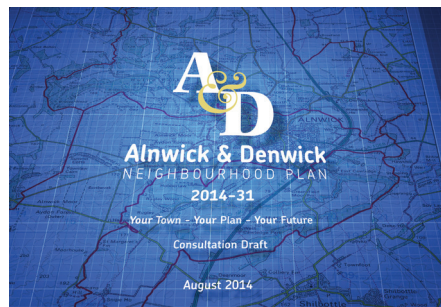
2014

2014

STAGE 3

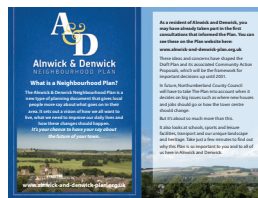
Consultation on the Draft Plan How we consulted and with whom

PREPARING THE PLAN



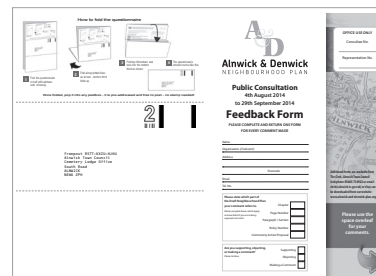
The Draft Plan

THIS ACCOMPANIES THIS DOCUMENT ON THE DVD



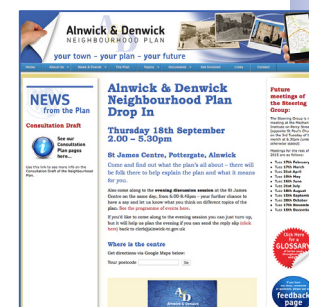
Summary Leaflet

[LINK TO SUMMARY LEAFLET](#)



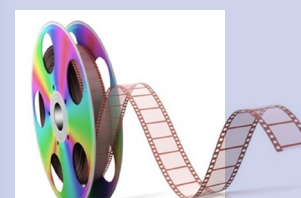
Feedback Form

[LINK TO FEEDBACK FORM](#)



Website

[LINK TO WEBSITE](#)



DVD & Short Film

THIS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE

Consultation Period: 4th August 2014 to 6th October 2014

Copies of Plan made available on request and at key venues like Council offices and the library

Summary leaflet and questionnaires distributed to 4700 households and sent to partners

DVD produced and use in various venues on continuous loop (Penrose's shop window and Alnwick Playhouse)

Website contained consultation pages and response form

Press Release



DOCUMENT

Consultees

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)



DOCUMENT

Press Release

[LINK TO DOCUMENT](#)

19th August 2014 Steering Group Meeting

18th Sept Public Drop in Session in St James's Church Rooms



Evening discussion event to consider draft plan policies and proposals attended by partners and general public in St James Church Rooms in Alnwick.



DOCUMENT

Agenda,
Attendees
and Straw Poll
Results

[LINK TO DOCUMENTS](#)

16th Sept 2014 Steering Group Meeting

September Market Stall used for consultation throughout September including at farmers market and food festival



What response did we get?



Topic	1	2	3	4	5
1. How existing the community assets are perceived at the neighbourhood level	1	2	3	4	5
2. Entertainment	1	2	3	4	5
3. Heritage & Culture	1	2	3	4	5
4. Community Facilities	1	2	3	4	5
5. Education	1	2	3	4	5
6. Housing	1	2	3	4	5
7. Economy & Employment	1	2	3	4	5
8. Retail and Tourism	1	2	3	4	5
9. Sport & Recreation	1	2	3	4	5

455

**RECEIVED FROM A TOTAL OF
81 RESPONDENTS
(ORGANISATIONS & INDIVIDUALS)
PLUS
15 WORKSHOP COMMENTS**



DOCUMENT

Response Table
& Action TakenSEPARATE EXCEL FILE
WITH THIS REPORT

How did we consider the responses?

All comments were considered by topic leads and responses tabled for consideration by the Steering Group. In some cases changes were made to draft policies or new policies added for inclusion in the submission draft plan. These are all detailed in the response document via the above link.

The Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan resulting from the draft plan consultation stage was submitted to Northumberland County Council on 4th September 2015.

4

Appendices

4.1 Initial documents

1	Advertisement in The Cryer	19
2	Press Release December 2011	20

Your opportunity to have a say in your community's neighbourhood plan.

Alnwick & Denwick parishes are starting working on a new type of plan called a 'Neighbourhood Plan' which will be community-led.

For the first time, neighbourhood planning will help communities shape their own vision for the future.

Local community groups and the local councils in Alnwick & Denwick, with the support of Northumberland County Council will be actively seeking your views on what our 'neighbourhood plan' should include.

Producing a 'neighbourhood plan' is a legally recognised way for channelling your views and aspirations to help create a relevant, vibrant and inclusive community.

How would you like to see your neighbourhood develop?

What are your priorities? transport? housing? sport & leisure? health and well-being? education? employment? businesses? people? environment? quality of life...?

In early December a questionnaire will be distributed to every household and business in Alnwick and Denwick.

These questionnaires will also be available in shops and other outlets in the near future.

In addition you will be able to download it and/or fill it in electronically via the Alnwick Town Council website at www.alnwicktowncouncil.co.uk

Do you have an event coming up where we can distribute our questionnaires? If so, please contact the Town Clerk.

**If you would like to design a logo for the Neighbourhood Plan, please submit your ideas by post to:
The Town Clerk,
Cemetery Lodge Office,
South Road, Alnwick
NE66 2PH.**

For further information contact:

Bill Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk, Alnwick Town Council,

Telephone **07971 810267**

or email: bill.batey@btconnect.com



www.alnwicktowncouncil.co.uk



ALNWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Cemetery Lodge Office
South Road
Alnwick
Northumberland NE66 2PH

Clerk to Council
Bill Batey
Tel: 01665 714922
Mobile: 07971 810267

18th October 2011

Help shape the future plans for the Alnwick area.

New powers to give local people more influence to determine the future of their areas are to be tried out in Alnwick and Denwick. These areas have been chosen as 'front-runners' to try out neighbourhood planning – a new power being introduced by the government to give people a real voice in deciding how development will look in their area.

Neighbourhood planning will allow communities to shape their own future vision for the area. Alnwick Town Council will be leading the preparation of the plan, working closely with Denwick Parish Council along with local community groups and using valuable support and guidance from Northumberland County Council. These organisations form part of a neighbourhood plan steering group which is chaired by Councillor Alan Symmonds, Mayor of Alnwick.

Councillor Symmonds said "This neighbourhood planning process will give our residents a real opportunity to shape the future of our communities and influence for example what the town will look like, in say 15 years time. Over the coming weeks a start will be made with initial consultation, engagement and information gathering. Questionnaires will be delivered to all households and businesses and I urge residents to tell us their key issues and priorities."

The whole process will take at least 18 months to complete and if the majority of residents support the final proposals then Northumberland County Council, as the local planning authority must bring it into force.

Councillor Tom Brechany, executive member responsible for housing, planning and regeneration at the county council said: "We are very pleased to be able to provide our support. It is going to be a very valuable learning experience for both the council and the communities of Alnwick and Denwick, and the project team we have dedicated to aid the process looks forward to providing knowledge and expertise."

Only three areas have been selected as front-runners in Northumberland. In addition to Alnwick & Denwick, Allendale in the west of the county has also been chosen, together with a proposal involving three parishes in the National Park (Bellingham, Wark and Tarsset & Greystead). .

4.2 Evidence/Documentation of Stage 1

(December 2011 to February 2012)

1	Neighbourhood Plan Press Release January 2012	22
2	ADNP_Feb2012_bannerstand.pdf	23
3	ADNP_posterA4.pdf	24
4	ADNP_questionnaire_online.pdf	25
5	ADNP_feb2012_displayboardsA1.pdf	28
6	ADNP - consultation responses feb 2012.pdf	33
7	ADNP Questionnaire - additional comments feb 2012.pdf	35
8	Consultation Event 24th July 2012	75
	• Priorities for Alnwick and Denwick.pdf	
	• Summary	
	• Updated Programme_29.06.12.pdf	
	• Attendees for Tuesday 24th July.pdf	
	• Workshops.pdf	
	• WWHW for Alnwick and Denwick.pdf	

Residents urged to complete questionnaires

Households in Alnwick and Denwick have been completing and returning their neighbourhood plan questionnaire over the last two weeks. The questionnaire, which has been delivered to households is part of an initial consultation to identify the key issues facing Alnwick and Denwick and is running until 30th January. A number of local engagements events are also taking place. The Localism Act of 2011 aims to shift decision making from central government to local communities and local councils. Neighbourhood planning will help Alnwick Town Council and Denwick Parish Council to prepare a plan for their area in close consultation with residents businesses and other local organisations.

Mayor of Alnwick, Councillor Alan Symmonds said “I urge as many people as possible to return their questionnaire; we want to get as many views as we can. This survey will help set a framework for our neighbourhood plan. Once we have this, further and more detailed consultation on options will follow later in the year”.

Alnwick and Denwick were awarded ‘Front Runner’ status by the government last September, to progress their neighbourhood plan and a steering group has been set up comprising of representatives of local organisations as well as the local councils and Northumberland County Council.

Anyone wishing to obtain further information can contact Bill Batey on 01665 714922 or email bill.batey@btconnect.com. A copy of the questionnaire can be completed online at www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk. Everyone who sends in a questionnaire will be entered into a prize draw, with the winner receiving a Turnbull’s fruit and vegetable hamper.

Your opportunity to have a say in your community's Neighbourhood Plan.

Alnwick & Denwick parishes are starting work on a new type of plan called a 'Neighbourhood Plan' which will be community-led.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

The introduction of neighbourhood planning is part of wider changes to the planning system in the Localism Act 2011. The Act aims to shift decision making from central government to communities and councils. Neighbourhood planning helps town and parish councils to prepare a plan for their area, in close consultation with residents, businesses and other local organisations.

Why are we doing it?

We are keen to give local communities and businesses more say in shaping the future of the town and its surroundings. To assist with this, Alnwick Town Council made a successful early bid to become a national 'Front Runner'. This means that Alnwick will get more help and advice in preparing a neighbourhood plan. It is important for Alnwick and Denwick to get as many local people as possible involved.

Where can I get further information?

Further information is available from Alnwick Town Council – contact **Bill Batey** (Chief Officer and Town Clerk) via **07971 810267**

or email bill.batey@btconnect.com, or visit www.alnwicktowncouncil.co.uk

Alnwick & Denwick
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



ALNWICK
TOWN COUNCIL

Northumberland
Northumberland County Council

Shaping the future of Alnwick & Denwick

We need your help to shape the
future of our community.

The planning system is changing. Decisions about
what should happen in an area can be influenced
more by local people – *that means you!*

A new Neighbourhood Development Plan
is being prepared for the area and
Alnwick and Denwick
Councils would like
you to get involved.

Alnwick & Denwick
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Find
out more
by dropping into:

**Market Place &
Town Hall**

Friday 27th January
9.30am - 1pm

**Willowburn
Leisure Centre**

Tuesday 31st January
4pm - 7pm

**Alnwick North
Community Centre**

Saturday 4th February
10am - 1pm

1

Before receiving this questionnaire were you aware of the neighbourhood plan proposed for Alnwick and Denwick?

Yes ☐

No ☐

The following issues have been identified for the neighbourhood plan. Please identify how important you feel each is for the area.

Please put a circle round a number.

① means you **do not** think it is very important,

⑤ means you **do** think it is very important

2 Environment

Managing change in the town in a way that respects the environment	1	2	3	4	5
--	---	---	---	---	---

The need to provide more public green space, allotments, parks and gardens	1	2	3	4	5
--	---	---	---	---	---

3 Heritage & Culture

Preserving, enhancing and promoting our heritage	1	2	3	4	5
--	---	---	---	---	---

The need to develop and promote our arts and culture	1	2	3	4	5
--	---	---	---	---	---

4 Community Facilities

Maintaining and developing the area's community facilities (eg community buildings, library etc).	1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

5 Education

Providing quality education facilities and resources	1	2	3	4	5
--	---	---	---	---	---

6 Housing

Providing sufficient housing choice to meet future needs	1	2	3	4	5
--	---	---	---	---	---

7 Economy & Employment

Developing and widening employment opportunities to support the resident population	1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

8 Retail and Tourism

Maintaining and improving the range of shops and services in the area	1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

Preserving and improving Alnwick as a tourist destination	1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

9 Sport & Recreation

Providing good quality and affordable sports, recreational and play facilities	1	2	3	4	5
--	---	---	---	---	---

10 Transport

Improving transport links, accessibility and car parking	1	2	3	4	5
--	---	---	---	---	---

Improving pedestrian and cycle links	1	2	3	4	5
--------------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---

11 Please use the box below for any additional comments you have about the issues listed above

12 Is there anything missing from the list above?

Yes ☐ No ☐

13 If yes – what are the other issues that affect...

You:

Where you live:

Your community:

14 Discussions relating to previous community planning in the Alnwick area have identified a number of potential projects. Please indicate how important you feel each is for the Alnwick area.

Please put a circle round a number.

① means you **do not** think it is very important,
⑤ means you **do** think it is very important

New or improved bus station	1	2	3	4	5
-----------------------------	---	---	---	---	---

Provision of a purpose built youth centre	1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

Improvements to Northumberland Hall	1	2	3	4	5
-------------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---

Improving the vitality of the Market Place	1	2	3	4	5
--	---	---	---	---	---

Development of a new high school campus	1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

A community-based renewable energy scheme	1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

15 Please use the box below for any additional comments you have about the project ideas listed above, or to suggest any additional projects,

16 Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbourhood plan and what it should cover? Yes ☐ No ☐

17 If so please write them in the box below.

Your Details

18 What is your postcode?

19 Please state whether you are:
(select any that apply)

- ☐ A **resident** of Alnwick or Denwick
- ☐ A **resident** of a nearby parish
- ☐ A **visitor**
- ☐ Someone who **owns / manages a business** in Alnwick or Denwick
- ☐ Someone who **works** in Alnwick or Denwick
- ☐ Someone who **shops / uses services** in Alnwick or Denwick

20 Please state which age group you belong to:

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18 - 24
- ☐ 25 - 34
- ☐ 35 - 54
- ☐ 55 - 64
- ☐ 65 or over

21 Please say if you would like to be kept informed and stay involved in the developing neighbourhood plan for Alnwick and Denwick. Yes ☐ No ☐

I would like to be **kept informed** ☐ I would like to be **actively involved** ☐

If you have ticked yes and/or want to enter the prize draw then include your contact details below:

Name
.....

Address
.....

Postcode
.....

Telephone Number
.....

Email
.....

RETURNING THE QUESTIONNAIRE

It is important that we get your views. Please return this questionnaire by **Monday 30th January 2012**.

To return your completed form either:

Drop it off at one of the collection points in the area. These are at Alnwick library, Alnwick Town Council's office, Northumberland County Council's information centre at Greenwell Lane, the Post Office and Willowburn Leisure Centre.

Post it back (see back page for details)

Or complete the questionnaire online by visiting **www.alnwicktowncouncil.co.uk**

The neighbourhood plan process is managed by a steering group made up of Alnwick Town Council, Denwick Parish Council and local community groups and is supported by Northumberland County Council.



Alnwick & Denwick

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Alnwick & Denwick parishes are starting work on a new type of plan called a 'Neighbourhood Plan' which will be community-led.

Local Authority Support

Local Authorities must provide support and advice to parishes preparing a plan.

Where can I get further information?

Further information is available from Alnwick Town Council – contact **Bill Batey** (Chief Officer and Town Clerk) via **07971 810267** or email bill.batey@btconnect.com or visit www.alnwicktowncouncil.co.uk

What is it?

- New planning powers have been introduced through the Localism Act in 2011.
- These give power to local people through their parish council to produce their own plan.
- Policies and proposals in the plan will shape future development.
- All planning applications have to be decided in line with the plan.

What will it do?

- The plan will set out a local vision for the development of the area, that is: what should go where.
- Provide local land-use policies to guide development.
- Allocate land for development agreed locally as being needed.

How is it done?



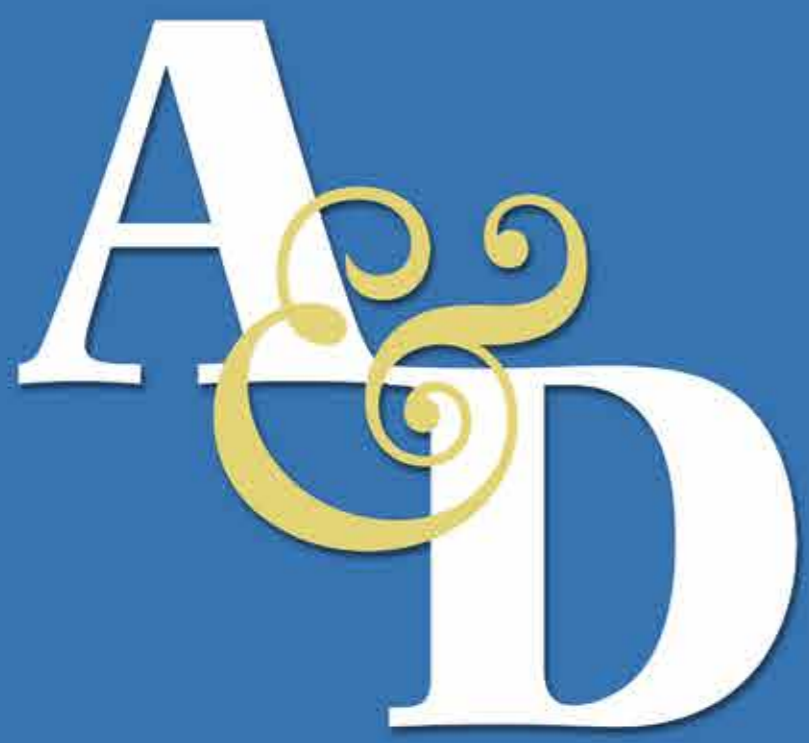
Are there any restrictions?

- The plan can cover anything that is important to the community.
- There can be only one plan in each parish and it must last for a reasonable period of time.
- Only the land-use policies in the plan can be used to make decisions on planning applications.
- It must be prepared having regard to national planning policies.
- It must be in general conformity with the County Council's planning policies for the area.
- The plan can't be used to prevent development already agreed through higher level policies.
- The plan must be agreed by a referendum of local people.



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Alnwick & Denwick

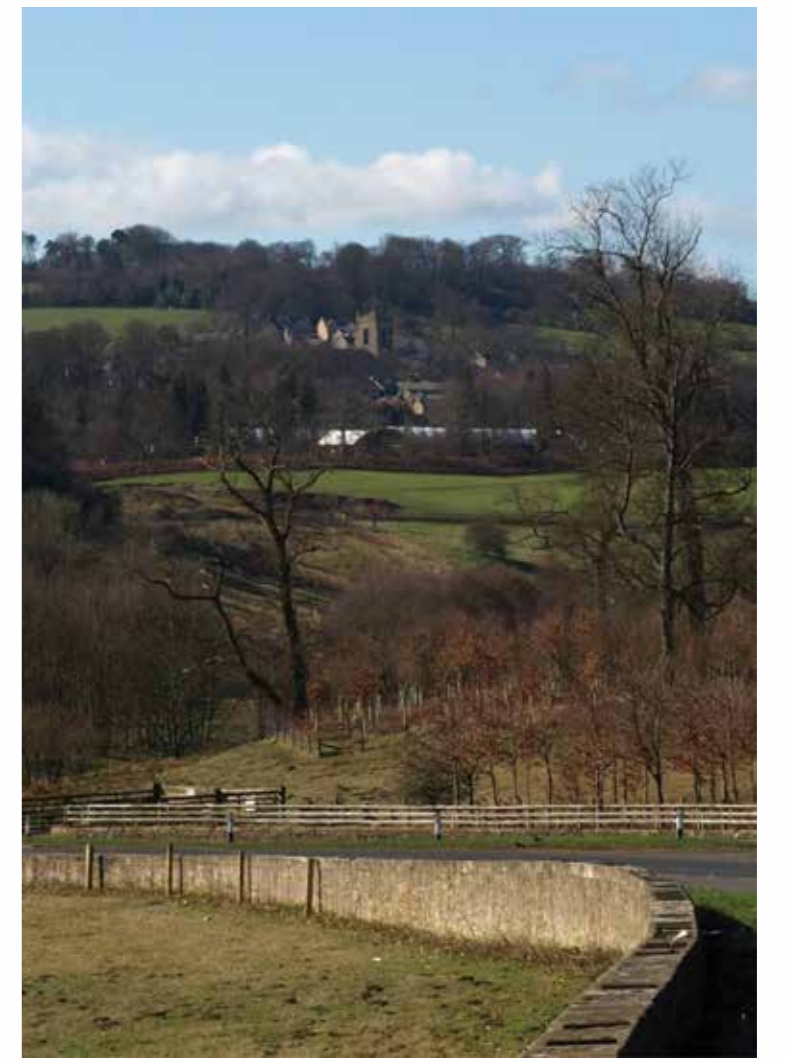
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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What area will it cover?

The Plan will cover all of Alnwick and Denwick Parishes. This is because much of the southern parts of Alnwick town are already located within an area of Denwick Parish called Denwick Detached.

This is also the area where there is potential for further development. For example the proposed new High School site is located within Denwick Parish. So although the plan will concentrate on issues facing the town, it made sense to include the wider area.



How will the plan be managed?

For the purposes of the legislation Alnwick Town Council is the 'qualifying body' but all decisions on the plan will be taken jointly and in consultation with Denwick Parish Council.

The day to day management of the project to prepare the plan is being undertaken by a steering group from within the Alnwick Community Partnership. The steering group meets monthly and is made up of councillors from Alnwick Town and Denwick Parish Council as well as county councillors and representatives from a wide range of groups, organisations and services within the town.

Frontrunner Status

Alnwick and Denwick area is one of a number of neighbourhoods in England chosen to test new planning powers to create community-led neighbourhood plans. These areas are known as the 'Front Runners'.

Our experiences will inform government guidance on how neighbourhood plans could be prepared elsewhere in the country.

Being a Front Runner Means....

- Benefitting from dedicated funding support from central government to Northumberland County Council.
- Significant technical support and guidance from the county council.
- Help and guidance from other organisations such as Planning Aid
- A chance to raise the profile of the Parish by leading the way and showing what Alnwick can achieve

So what can you do...

- The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will put together a draft plan for the town, but... it is your area and your plan so we need to know what you think.
- We'd like you to tell us what you think is good and bad about living and working in Alnwick.
- We are collecting ideas and information from anyone who wishes to comment.
- This information will give us a much clearer idea on those things that matter to you in the area and what should be included in the plan.

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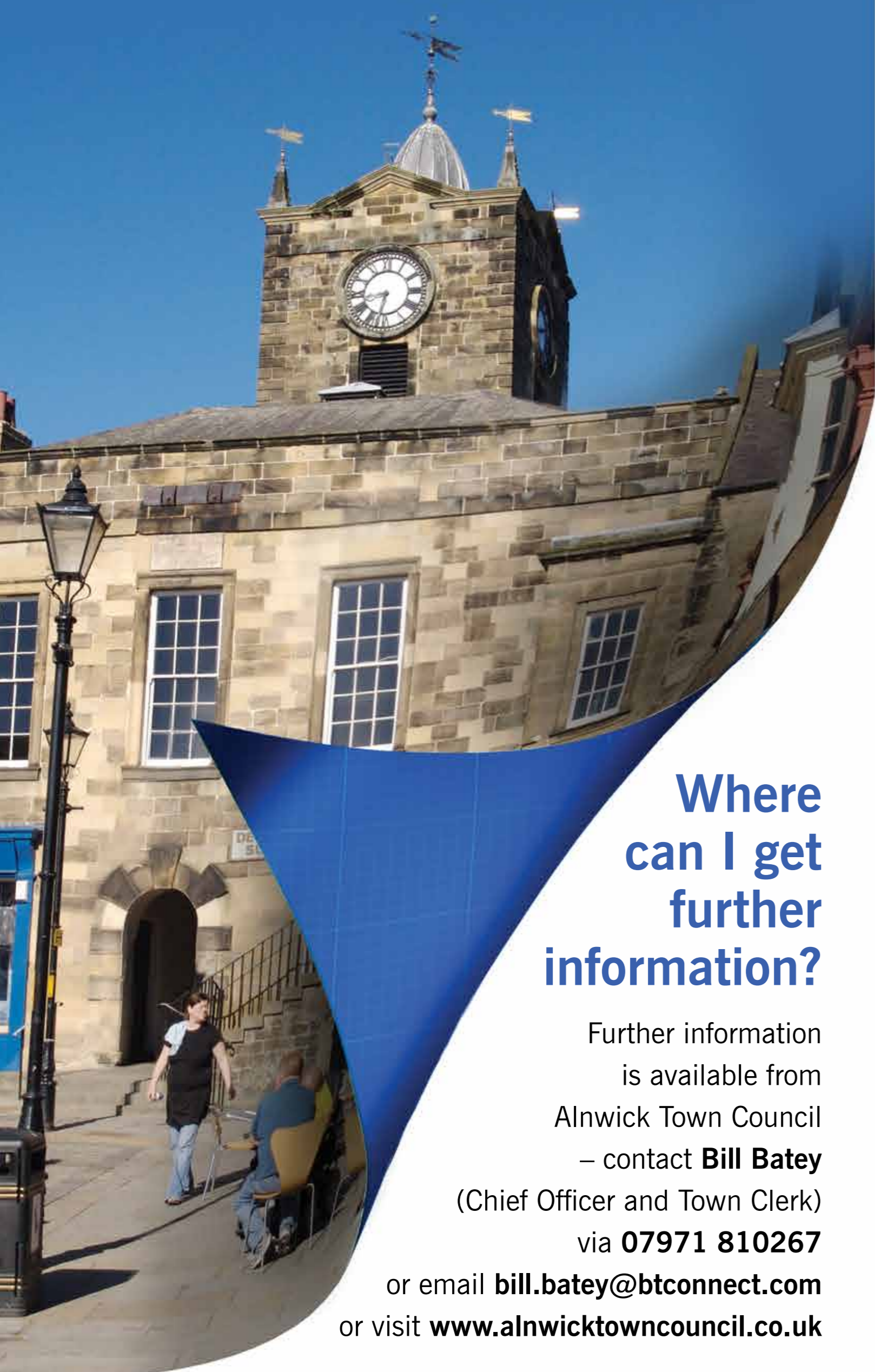
Alnwick & Denwick NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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ISSUES

What do you think are the issues of most importance in Alnwick & Denwick whether you live or work in the area or use its services?

Please complete a questionnaire and write any additional comments under the relevant heading on the comments wall.



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Environment



What is important to you and what concerns do you have about the environment in the Alnwick and Denwick area?

This might include:

- Managing change in a way that respects the environment.
- The need to provide more public green space.
- Protecting landscape and biodiversity and wildlife.
- A community based renewable energy scheme.



Heritage and Culture

What is important to you about the heritage and culture of our area?

This might include

- Preserving, enhancing and promoting our heritage.
- The need to develop our arts and culture.
- Improvements to Northumberland Hall.



Community Facilities

What are the issues around the provision of community facilities in the area?



This might include:

- Maintaining and developing the area's community facilities.
- Providing quality education facilities and resources.
- Development of a new high school campus.
- Provision of a purpose built youth centre.

Housing

What are the housing issues for the community living in the Alnwick and Denwick area?

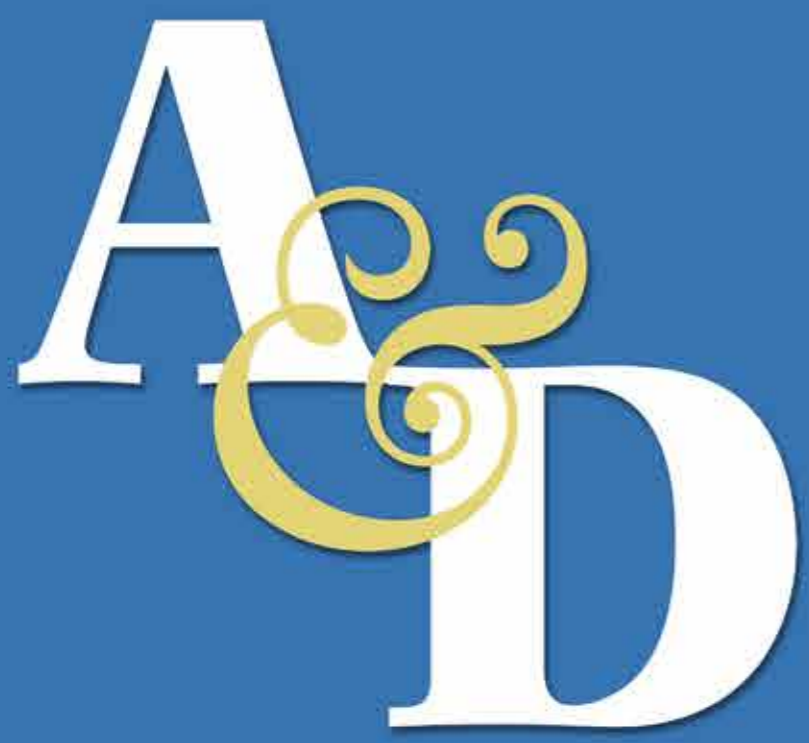
This might include:

- Providing sufficient housing choice to meet future needs.
- House prices and affordability.
- Re-use of redundant buildings.



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Alnwick & Denwick

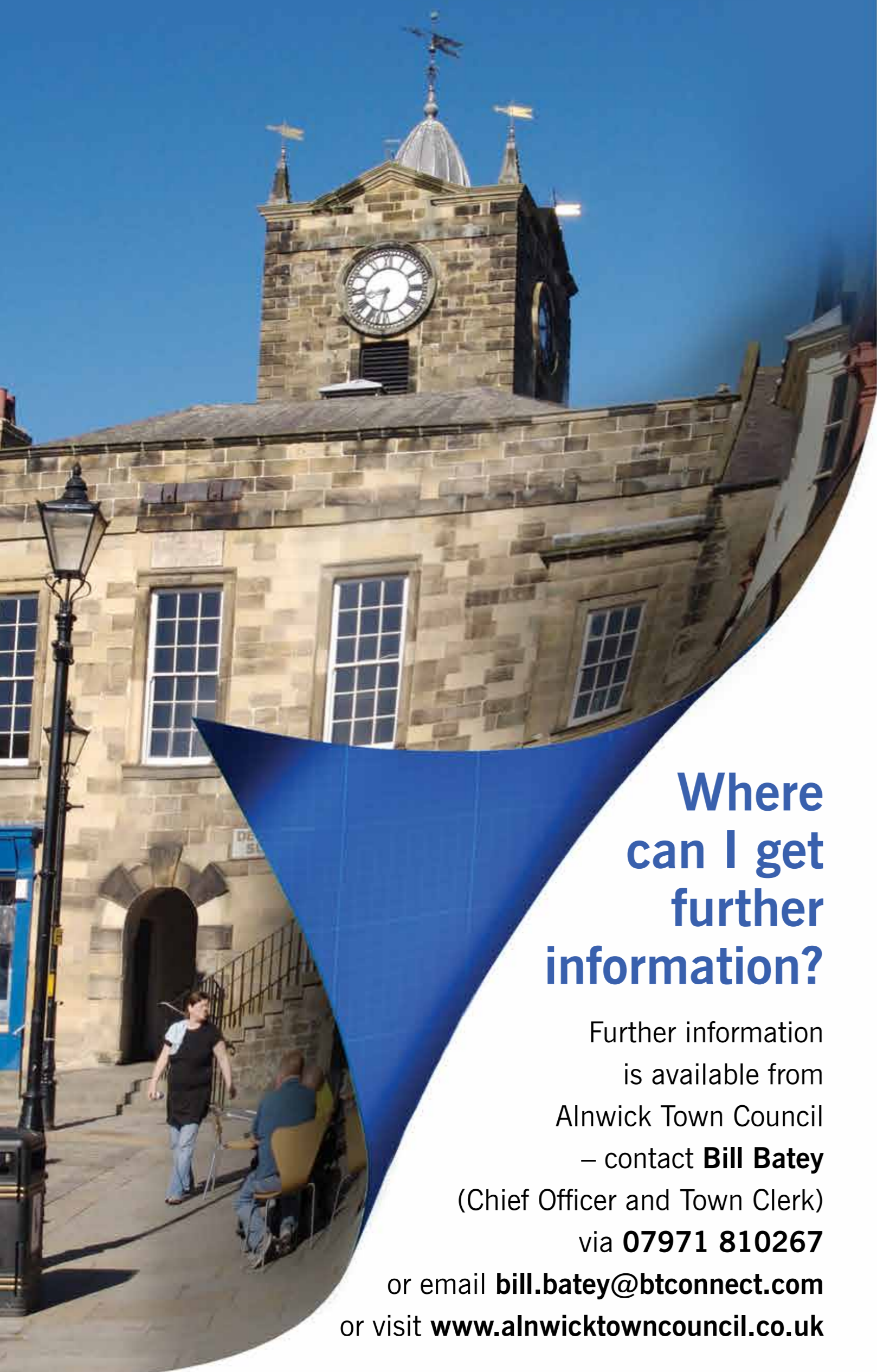
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ISSUES

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Economy and Employment

What are the key local issues around jobs and the economy?

This might include:

- Developing and widening employment opportunities to support the resident population.



Retail and Tourism

What do you think is important about Alnwick as a retail and tourism centre?

This might include:

- Maintaining and improving the range of shops and services in the area.
- Preserving and improving Alnwick as a tourist destination.
- Provision of improved serviced accommodation in the town.
- Improving the vitality of the Market Place.



Sport and Recreation

What issues are important in terms of sport and recreation?

This might include:

- Providing good quality and affordable sports, recreational and play facilities.



Transport

What matters to you most about transport in the Alnwick and Denwick area?

This might include:

- Improving transport links and accessibility.
- Improving pedestrian and cycle links.
- Car parking.
- A new or improved bus station.

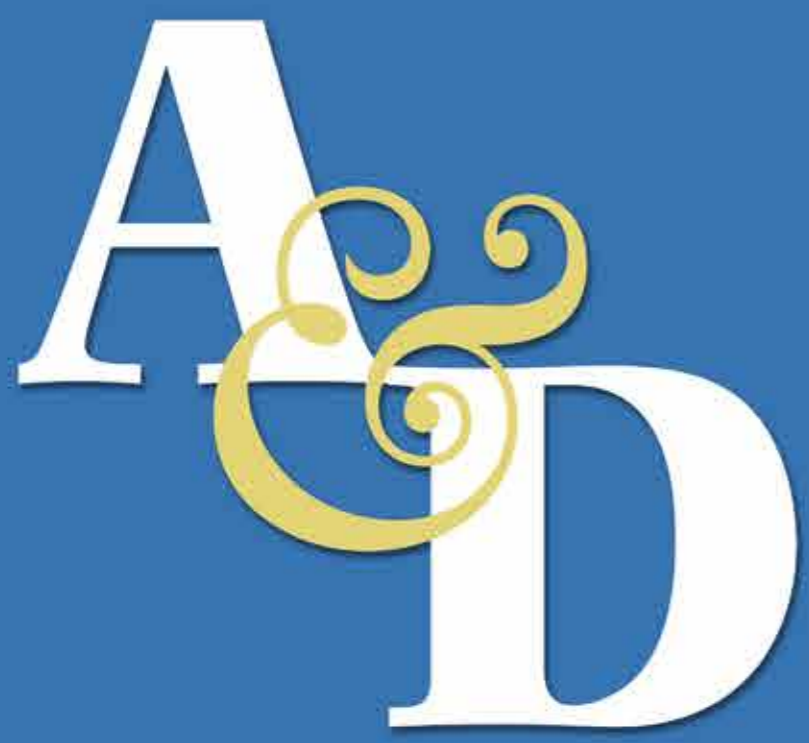


Please tell us about any other matters you feel are important for you, where you live, or for the wider local community, in Alnwick and Denwick Parishes.



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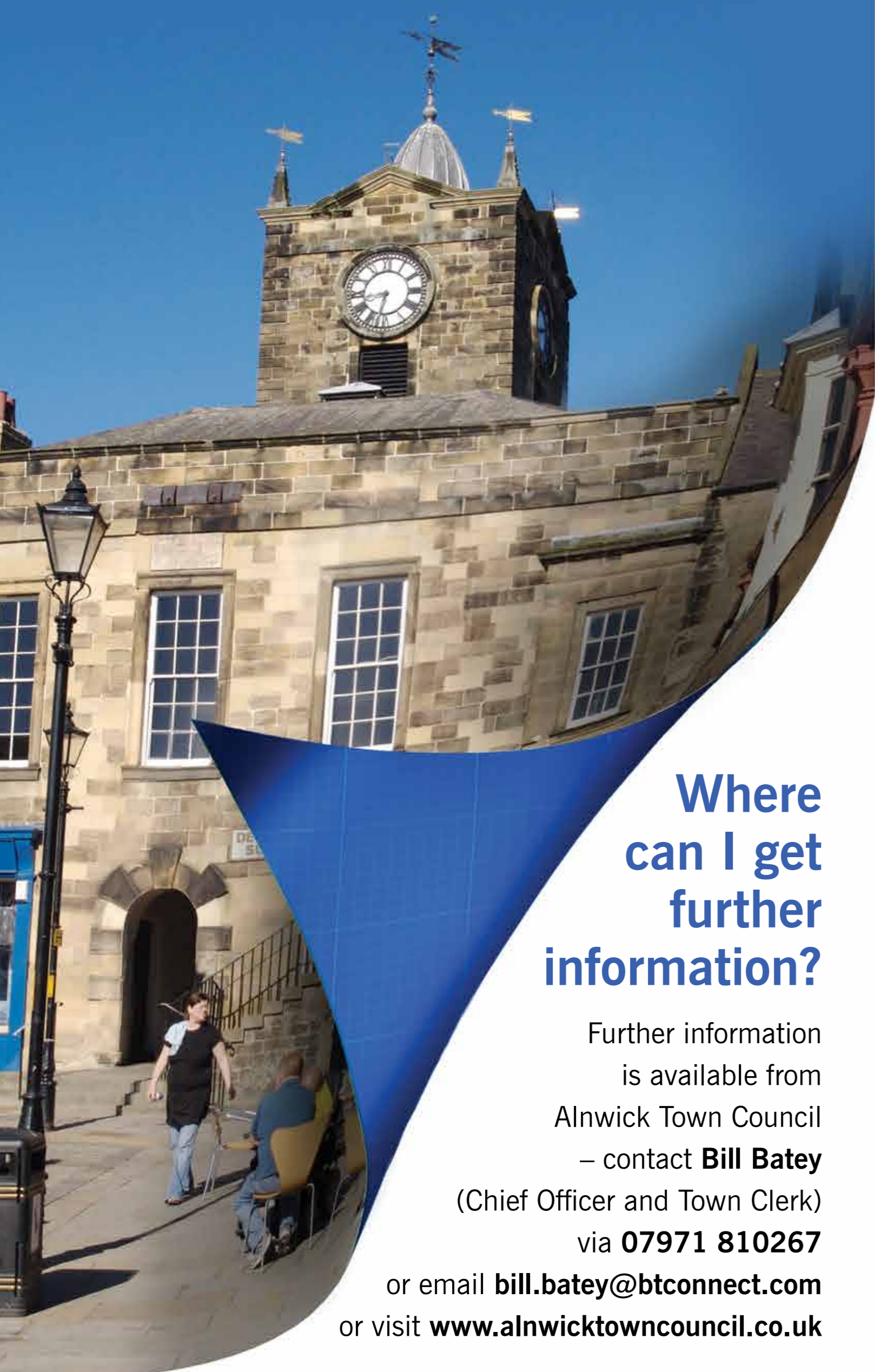
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So what happens next?



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This is only the start...

This is only the first opportunity for everyone to get involved in making a Neighbourhood Plan for Alnwick. Everything you tell us will help to guide how the Plan is prepared and what it includes.

This period of early engagement on what you think should be included in a Plan for Alnwick ends on Friday 10 February 2012.

This is the first chance for you to let us know what you love about living and working here; what you're less keen on; and what you think is needed to improve life in the area.

We are happy to continue to meet with local residents, businesses, groups and organisations active in the area to talk about the Plan as it progresses.



What will we do with your comments?

- All of the information provided through the questionnaires and drop in discussions is important. We will consider how your comments, concerns and suggestions can be used to inform what is included the Plan.
- This will help us draw up the plan and tell the story of what people in the area most want to see happen.

At the end of this consultation period we will:

- Prepare and publish a report summarising comments made by questionnaire and at the drop-in events.
- This report will be made available online at the www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk website and paper copies will be available throughout the parish.
- Hold further local consultation and community involvement activities to share our thoughts and ideas.

How can you next get involved?

This new way of planning gives us all the chance to get involved and make sure our voices are heard when plans are being prepared.

We think the best way to make this happen is for you, your friends, your family, neighbours and workmates to tell us about the things that matter in Alnwick.

We'd like you to tell us what affects you most where you live and what changes you would like to see. We would love you to get involved at all stages of the project whether that just means telling us about those things that matter, or volunteering your time and skills to help write the Plan.

- To keep in touch, we are working with the Gazette, who have agreed to print articles about the plan.
- Details of future events will be publicised locally and online at www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk

Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan

Initial feedback from questionnaire responses

Total number received – 688

Q1) Before receiving this questionnaire were you aware of the neighbourhood plan process for Alnwick and Denwick?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	104	15.1%
No	456	66.3%
No response	128	18.6%

Q2-Q10) The following issues have been identified for the neighbourhood plan. Please identify how important you feel each is for the area. (1 means you **do not** think it is very important, 5 means you **do** think it is very important)

Theme	Issue	Percentage					
		1	2	3	4	5	No response
Environment	Managing change in the town in a way that respects the environment	1.6%	1.6%	15.1%	24.1%	55.9%	1.7%
	The need to provide more public green space, allotments, parks and gardens	3.0%	7.0%	27.3%	25.3%	35.8%	1.6%
Heritage and Culture	Preserving, enhancing and promoting our heritage	2.2%	5.1%	13.3%	31.3%	47.1%	1.0%
	The need to develop and promote our arts and culture	4.4%	8.7%	24.7%	32.1%	28.6%	1.5%
Community Facilities	Maintaining and developing the area's community facilities (eg community buildings, library etc)	1.5%	1.3%	10.9%	25.4%	60.0%	0.9%
Education	Providing quality education facilities and resources	0.9%	0.7%	5.2%	12.1%	80.8%	0.3%
Housing	Providing sufficient housing choice to meet future needs	2.6%	2.8%	15.3%	27.8%	51.0%	0.4%
Economy & Employment	Developing and widening employment opportunities to support the resident population	1.6%	0.7%	5.4%	18.3%	73.5%	0.5%
Retail & Tourism	Maintaining and improving the range of shops and services in the area	1.6%	2.5%	7.8%	27.3%	60.3%	0.5%
	Preserving and improving Alnwick as a tourist destination	4.2%	3.2%	15.8%	27.3%	47.7%	1.8%
Sport & Recreation	Providing good quality and affordable sports, recreation and play facilities	1.3%	5.1%	14.5%	31.8%	46.4%	0.9%
Transport	Improving transport links, accessibility and car parking	1.7%	1.3%	8.6%	24.4%	62.8%	1.2%
	Improving pedestrian and cycle links	2.3%	8.6%	24.0%	27.6%	36.2%	1.3%

Q11) Please use the box below for any additional comments you have about the issues listed above.

280 respondents provided additional comments (see separate sheet)

Q12) Is there anything missing from the above list?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	153	22.2%
No	197	28.6%
No response	338	49.2%

Q13) If yes - what are the other issues that affect...

You: 109 respondents provided additional comments (see separate sheet)

Where you live: 103 respondents provided additional comments (see separate sheet)

Your community: 81 respondents provided additional comments (see separate sheet)

Q14) Discussions relating to previous community planning in the Alnwick area have identified a number of potential projects. Please indicate how important you feel each is for the Alnwick area. (1 means you **do not** think it is very important, 5 means you **do** think it is very important)

Project	Percentage					
	1	2	3	4	5	No response
New or improved bus station	4.1%	6.7%	17.7%	19.3%	50.3%	1.9%
Provision of a purpose built youth centre	4.1%	6.4%	26.2%	28.5%	31.5%	3.3%
Improvements to Northumberland Hall	8.1%	14.0%	37.1%	25.9%	12.4%	2.5%
Improving the vitality of the Market Place	2.5%	5.1%	16.7%	35.2%	37.6%	2.9%
Development of a new high school campus	2.3%	4.1%	10.5%	11.9%	69.6%	1.6%
A community based renewable energy scheme	6.3%	8.1%	29.8%	25.4%	25.9%	4.5%

Q15) Please use the box below for any additional comments you have about the issues listed above.

230 respondents provided additional comments (see separate sheet)

Q16) Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbourhood plan and what it should cover? If so please write them in the box below

138 respondents provided additional comments (see separate sheet)

Respondents' details

Q17) What is your postcode? 597 respondents provided their postcode, 91 did not (breakdown to follow)

Q18) Please state whether you are: (select any that apply)

- A resident of Alnwick or Denwick – 590 respondents
- A resident of a nearby parish – 69 respondents
- A visitor – 9 respondents
- Someone who owns / manages a business in Alnwick or Denwick – 43 respondents
- Someone who works in Alnwick or Denwick – 123 respondents
- Someone who shops / uses services in Alnwick or Denwick – 388 respondents

Q19) Please state which age group you belong to:

Age	Percentage
Under 18	2.8%
19-24	3.2%
25-34	5.1%
35-54	23.5%
55-64	26.2%
65 or over	36.8%
No response	2.4%

Q20) Please say if you would like to be kept informed and stay involved in the developing neighbourhood plan for Alnwick and Denwick.

- I would like to be kept informed – 342 respondents
- I would like to be actively involved – 45 respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Transport: Move the bus station to Willis's old site. Provide a "town service" from there. All major heavy buses would then have ingress & egress via the A1. Leaving the town centre clear of heavy buses. It would also be a "hub" for the Aln Valley Rail link. Pedestrianise: Bondgate Tower to Robertson's Pant. Narrow gate from Carris Clocks to Iceland & change the traffic priority at Maynards Corner. Thus allowing traffic to flow through the town centre via Fenkle Street and Laginy Street, whilst still allowing parking on the cobbles etc. Additional parking would then be available at the old bus station if Morrison's agree.

As a wheelchair user - accessibility and car parking is high priority to me - I have issues with drop kerbs within Alnwick and I should be able to get on any bus within the area but not all are accessible. too many motorists park across drop kerbs making crossing roads in w/chair unsafe - also not enough drop kerbs to get around - feel like a lower class citizen/

New labour opportunities must be created that help to develop Alnwick in developing a localised food and energy infrastructure. Uplands could be used for wood production rather than sheep farming. All land could be used to support the local and wider human population, rather than to support the farm animal sector, which is environmentally and ethically unsustainable.

I feel that Alnwick has a unique heritage and opportunity to maintain this and to enhance the whole towns prosperity through tourism. If there was an initiative to promote the independent shops and Alnwick as a brand I think this would be very helpful economically. The high street and market place feel as though they are dying and Alnwick feels very different now to the regenerated Morpeth despite having far more to offer. Transport links are not good. I also feel like the town is missing an opportunity for a kind of cooperative style supermarket. The amount of local suppliers who could collaborate on a funded project under an 'Alnwick' brand is remarkable. Everyone who works outside of Alnwick is restricted to shopping in large supermarkets as the local shops are closed, some kind of cooperative supermarket I honestly feel could work very well.

There are NO facilities for young people such as a bowling alley. Also we need a soft play area for the very young. The Lion's Den is greatly missed. The Sunday bus to Berwick goes round the coastal route and none goes up the A1. Where's the sense in that. What if you live on the A1. Also the buses do not match up with the trains at Alnmouth.

feel that any plan should reflect the needs of the present population and though they must encompass contingencies for future ones. Any plan should endeavour not to compromise this generations needs in an attempt to ensure that future ones are provided for. As who knows what the needs and demands of future generations are going to be. One point as far as heritage and culture it is concerned I feel that this is an area of the town that is already well embedded and is being maintained by private enterprise. Therefore any monies allocated to this area could be directed to other areas of more urgent need. Tourism is a key to improving an economy of an area. Alnwick is well placed for this, however, transport links are appalling and networks and links should be a priority in any plan. Also for the towns sustainability and future CO2 emissions, park and rides and rail links are going to be needed to meet government targets. Therefore, cheaper energy packages should be included as well as community based renewable energy schemes, for any plan to work it is important that this generation is shown to be limiting its impact on future ones.

For any of this to happen there has to be an incentive for townspeople of all ages to respect the town and keep it clean and litter free. Too often local people look to the negative aspects of the town rather than promoting the positive.

Town needs thorough audit of signage from A1 to A697 and improvements needed. Too many out-dated signs in bad condition. Pedestrianisation needs full feasibility report, incorporating Civic Society report from 2006 and Streetscape study of 2007.

Public toilets in Shambles in Alnwick in very poor condition - do not create a very good impression on the town. Tiles off the wall, no hot water, hand dryer useless.

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

quality, Heritage, Tourism enhancement & promotion all depend crucially on the quality of TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT. Currently key areas of Alnwick's historic environment are hostile and dangerous to both residents and visitors. Critically the route approaching the Lion Bridge and up through Narrow gate require urgent attention, as outlined below: Traffic management Lion Bridge thru to Narrow gate 1. Traffic calming is essential on the approach to and across Lion Bridge Traffic currently approaches and (legally) crosses the Lion Bridge at speeds in excess of 60 mph; this is a major hazard, particularly to visitors who linger on the bridge to appreciate and photograph the iconic view of the Castle & river, as they are unaware of the risk of lingering on the Bridge. In addition to safety hazard, the historic and aesthetic quality of the environment is made hostile and unpleasant by this anti-social, irresponsible but currently legal, behaviour, which needs to be tamed by the town, whose ambience is being destroyed. The long discussed pedestrianization of Narrow gate should be undertaken as soon as possible.

Everything possible should be done to maintain and enhance Alnwick's attractiveness to tourists/visitors. The history and character of the town is one of its greatest assets and must, surely, be fully presented really well.

Everything possible should be done to maintain and enhance Alnwick's attractiveness to tourists/visitors. The history and character of the town is one of its greatest assets and must, surely, be fully presented really well.

7. Economy and Employment - Improving opportunities for youth employment. Overcoming nepotism in Alnwick businesses so everyone gets a fair chance of a job.

A better variety of shops with less concentration of one type within a small area would be welcome; something that is innovative and different. It is a shame that we do not have a shop showcasing not only local produce but also good quality local crafts as Northumberland is a county with lots to offer in these areas. A shoe repair/heel bar shop would be a boon to the town. I find that the Market Place is no longer somewhere where I wish to linger either to walk through or browse the shop windows or shop now that it has become a car park; any sense of it being a focal point of the town no longer exists. Nominating a piece of land for development as a car park is essential, even if that were to mean that the land would be lost to being developed for housing if Alnwick wishes to continue developing as a destination for tourism.

Car park at Roxoboro Place is a disgrace! - pot holes and mud. It needs to be re-surfaced and marked out.

We all need reasonable tourism but local people should come first. We don't want amenities just for tourists.

More policing in and around Alnwick

Parking on the grassed area in Windsor Gardens should be stopped as soon as possible

Housing for people that were born in the area

Everything needs to improve - for the sake of our economy in the very near future!!!

We should be cautious about trying to expand Alnwick without increasing local employment and facilities

Difficulty with parking and the charges do not encourage local people to shop locally

Car parking for local people living where they use on street parking - need to have specific residential parking - even if this is to cost more

More frequent bus services to Newcastle City Centre. It's disgraceful that the 501 from Alnwick to Newcastle leaves 09:10 instead of between 07:00 - 08:00. 505 to Berwick also frequently misses the Alnmouth train connection times

Item 10 - Free parking in North & West Northumberland Item 8 - Not too many cafes in Alnwick a good overall nature of shops required

More car parking + free

Bringing sustainable jobs to the area should be the first priority. Public transport needs to be improved, particularly as bus times so that they tie in with job start and end times. Extra car parking provisions need to be made in or near the centre of town to serve people working in the town and so tourists visiting the town can park. No car parking spaces means that tourists don't stop

Green space is taken for granted in Alnwick but recent fencing of the Lindisfarne School playing fields shows how little of the green corridors throughout the town are available to the public for the foreseeable future.

More affordable housing for the young

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

I am a self-employed ranger and I would like to take further part in written work for the neighbourhood plan. I am an ex-printer who is now limited as to what I can do due to health problems.

Increase free parking, pedestrianise the town centre

Pensioners should be exempt from parking charges

I would like to see market place for blue badge only. Only three town centre B/B places, Greenwoods two, Near boots one

WE would love to see the development of cycle lanes around the town and linking Alnwick and Alnmouth to promote 'green' transport links. This could extend to Chapel Lands and the centre of town. No.6 - it is vital to provide affordable housing for low income families but not housing at any cost!

Free car parking should be available to help shops on the town

teenage activities - cycle paths

A new high school! Improving school buildings is very important

I believe that parking should be free for all residents. Road sweeping should be done everywhere not just the town centre!

Recycling to have more collection points around the town - especially glass

Bungalows are needed for the elderly. Houses that they now live in could be used for families

Need more pedestrian crossings/safe places to cross the roads in Alnwick with pushchairs/children particularly on South Road opposite trading estate to path to Sainsburys. And need more cycle paths around Alnwick and the surrounding area

Section 8 - Retail + Tourism: a fast food restaurant i.e. McDonalds or KFC would bring more trade into the town. Ideal location - Willowburn area. Cheaper supermarket i.e. tesco/asda with a fuel station

2. We already have open green areas & parks 9. We have a great selection of sport facilities

We should not put the needs of tourists above those of the residents who all have to pay council tax

Parking is inadequate especially if tourists are to be attracted + encouraged to remain in town. Present cycles path in town are dangerous

Reduce costs for business to keep shops open in Alnwick centre instead of coffee shops

Care should be taken that no more cafes open to the detriment of local shopping The market place should not become another car park

As virtually every town in the UK has pedestrian only areas, why can't we at least have a car free Market Square? The buck on this just gets passed from one to another. Please sort it

We would like cleaner toilets and a decent bus station

Importance of keeping Alnmouth train station adequately supported and maintained

One way traffic system in Alnwick

Better public transport

We could do with a fish shop and a general deli

If you have an attractive town don't spoil it with unsuitable additions. If Alnwick needs future housing developments develop "brown field" sites first and fill properties already built before building more.

car parking in the Market Place is a disaster, it should be stopped immediately and the whole area used for community space.

Local people have been left out in favour of new people coming to the area, who have NO idea about local life and traditional area and history

WE would love cycle paths in the area, to make family cycling safe

Put a new door on 'Winnie the Pooh's house' on Clayport street

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Environment: Improve the landscaping both within and at the perimeters of the Lionheart Enterprise/Industrial Park. The starkness of the buildings would be softened with the planting of strategically sited real trees. Shrubs and smaller trees would make the perimeters more attractive as was, I believe, stipulated in the original planning.

Public transport in rural areas needs serious consideration

No more executive house to be bought in Alnwick - Only a few affordable ones

Car parking is a big issues - over christmas the town looked like one big car park. The market stalls have problems with parking in the supposed pedestrian market place which just looks a mess

Could use a train station to bring more people into the town and out

Cycle track along to LANwick cornhill line Alnwick to Ellingham would convert easily

This is a good walking area. BUT so many roads have no pavement or suitable walking paths. So one has to walk on a main road which is dangerous for walkers and transport

In my opinion the bus services are shambolic to the least. When a person has to start work at 22.00 in the evening at Berwick and the last service provided by Arriva is 18.00 I consider this to be archaic to say for me

The public transport is wanted and expensive. It is important to Preserve our heritage but Alnwick is a working town not a theme park so they need to be balanced. Social housing and new jobs would help the town grow

Provision of park and ride facilities for tourists should be a priority. All residents should be able to purchase cheap parking permits. More interesting shops are needed to compete with Morpeth/New castle to encourage 'local' shopping. Support Aln Valley Railway

The infrastructure need to be right for tourism - repeat business will not occur if there are no facilities. Only serious employment opportunities and affordable housing will keep a percent of young people in the area, otherwise the area is destined for retirement purposes only.

Q.8 - is too simplified. many people do not understand the importance of tourism on the local economy. Supporting building jobs, manufacturers in retail

We need more work in the area for the younger people

More long stay car parks particularly if it allows people with no bus service to drive into Alnwick to use the public transport to other places

Ban cars from market square. Put a pedestrian crossing near M+Co. Create a one way system thus creating a safe environment for pedestrians. Out of town parking with free buses to town

(8) do something about the state of the public toilets - the female toilets in the chambers are a disgrace (10) Do something about dog fouling on our pathways

Maintaining community facilities and thereby providing local employment may be economically more productive, encouraging youth stay in the area

I have rated transport links a 3 because if we deal with pedestrian, cycle and public transport first, the need for car parking should reduce. The private car should not take precedence over public transport.

As all are interdependent all are equally important! Three areas that I, as a retired Alnwick Town resident, am immediately aware of are the public lavatories, the library and the bus station. All are well below reasonable 21st century expectations in delivery of their presentation and services.

It is difficult to decide on absolute priorities between the Topics as a fully functioning, sustainable and civilised community needs all of the above facilities and services, which is why I have not marked any below 4.

I think maintaining shop and services in the area is very important

Alnwick to New castle - 1 Express Coach service daily each way

Free entry to castle and gardens for over 60's - or reduced admission. Free car parking in the town

Parking charges are stopping people shopping in Alnwick. Too many shops taken over by cafes, charity shops + estate agents. Allotments left unoccupied even though people have tried to rent an allotment, they are told none are available.

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Market place must be protected and improved at all costs...parking cars in it shouldn't be an option...POLICE IT!!!

maximum support for the Playhouse, please- the only regular access to culture there is; additionally, I wouldn't mind having a "proper" cinema in the region!

Should be free parking in Alnwick. Need to keep town bus service in Alnwick running to present route which includes Greensfield Avenue, Blakelaw road + Swansfield road. Important to have play areas for children

I feel that sports facilities are quite good - not enough play space + provision for young people

The current cycle links seem rather useless. A library could be incorporated in a new school campus as also sports. Pavements and alleys are a disgrace.

The new high school should be top priority

Left 2B blank as unsure of current level of facilities e.g. allotments + current need

There should be more shops to bring in people not just leaving them as coffee shops. The play park is quite often damaged and older children do horrible things down the slide

A ban on car parking in the market square - its an eyesore and needs to be sorted

Improve transport links i.e Better public transport No need to dual A1 Car parking needs more thought - not in the market place

Buses and cars parked along Swansfield Park Road and Lindisfarn Road at 3'O'Clock onwards you can not see up or down the roads when you come to get out. I start work at 3:15

People who live in Alnwick should not have to pay for parking

Cycle links provided are not thought out around Alnwick - The roads are too narrow put them off road. Car parks needed!!

Improve bus services to Alnwick, Morpeth + New castle from villages. More regular services. Reduce parking costs in Alnwick

Maintain pressure on county council for free town parking Maintain pressure for Dual A1 campaign

All the questions are loaded to give a positive response

Transport links being reduced! Allotment waiting list too long - more allotments needed. Waiting list should be publicly accessible

Housing - fill the empty flats before building new houses Parking. More disabled spaces needed in the town centre. EG market place

Cycle links are especially important to stream cycle tourists on the hugely popular routes (produced by sustrains) To Alnwick + so the road from Alnmouth should be made safe for cyclists

Car parking will inevitably cause traffic jams. The streets are over parked. Motorists ignore yellow lines

Sport + Recreation - My son and his friends like a skate park in Alnwick rather than having to travel to Shillbottle or Amble!!

Improve & properly complete dropped curbs to enable disabled chairs & scooters & prams to move more easily.

Prefer 'conserve' to 'preserve' (see 8). The latter implies one doesn't play an active role! e.g. Trees receive little or no attention because they have a 'preservation order' on them.

South road needs pedestrian improvements. No pavement from fire station to beginning of cemetery wall. Crossing the road extremely dangerous & difficult for disabled, elderly & people with pushchairs & prams

A part from market days the Market Place is quite a sad empty space. I'm pleased cafes are putting more tables outside and hope this is allowed to continue

Resolve parking issues (free of charge etc.) Improve road conditions - not treated properly in icy conditions plus NO salt in grit bin on estates Expansion = improved services needed e.g. petrol (inc. cost)

I cycle to work & find the paths are not joined up

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...
Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Consultation with as many age groups as possible, as well as community groups

Free parking for Alnwick residents

While there will be highly local concerns about education/and about health and social care if these are added to the list - see 13) provision beyond first school level is a matter for a much wider area than Alnwick and Denwick itself

Housing - not always about choice, need to consider affordability in both private & social sector & relationship to local average income levels & economic changes to demographics

Pedestrian and cycle links should not be put together!

6) There is plenty of vacant housing in & around Alnwick. If the rates were more reasonable for retail premises in town - perhaps you would have more people willing to "have a go" better to have all buildings in use and producing regular income

Stopping cars parking on pavements. Make school buses park in car park at Wagonway Road (an accident waiting to happen)

For sport and recreation, I do not believe that Alnwick provides enough. The Willowburn centre is vastly overpriced for a single gym session it is £5.90. I have a nine year old son and at weekends we had to go to Amble to use their skate park, something which Alnwick should have.

More on street parking for blue badge people

Reasonable bus services after 5pm. As some areas have no public transport after this time

Charging for car parks to local residents should be stopped! It's a disgrace to have to pay when just 'nipping' in a shop or bank. Should be free for 1 or 2 hours!!

Transport - buses - reliability. They get caught in traffic in Newcastle & time keeping never recovered. Buses starting in Morpeth would help.

It would be good if there was one express bus stopping only at Morpeth on straight through to Newcastle

There's not enough local produce retailers and most restaurants shut at 9 which seems ridiculous with tourism

I feel that Alnwick is at more of a disadvantage than it used to be because so much now depends on decisions by the County Council which inevitably cuts out local interest and involvement in local affairs

Disability access questions not addressed. Try to get round town in a wheelchair! Road surface bad, drop curbs obstructed and intermittent

Most of the above is too general - "motherhood & apple pie". Need to be more specific about what priorities are for the future. e.g. re issue 2: improve the state of public domain in town centre - floorscale, signposting, clutter, etc Consult residents on real choices!

The use of "A" boards etc, especially in Narrowgate makes it impossible for disability scooters, wheelchairs, prams etc

It would be good to bring some of the derelict buildings in the town centre back into use for business or workshop or retail type units.

I am concerned about the number of cars that continually park on the pavement and never appear to receive a parking ticket. The pavements in Narrowgate in particular are in an appalling state and need urgent repair before people break their necks

I would like to see a cycle path alongside the old railway line to Alnmouth from Alnwick

The rebuilding of the high school is the main concern in the town among the parents. I have 3 children and they will all be at DHS in September, the teaching is great but the building is in an appalling state

The amount of dog mess on the pavements is a constant problem (especially around the schools). This cannot be good for trade & tourism; 2 ways to boost the local economy

There is a definite lack of focus on local artists - who are largely left to self promote when they could work more in conjunction with tourism

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Its the public transport links that are critical. Current 'bus meets train' bus service does not work - shuttle bus between station and Alnwick??

Transport is ridiculously expensive & there are just few buses from Longhoughton to Alnwick & New castle - desperately needs to be improved. School buildings should be also be improved, students work hard & deserve appropriate buildings

Environment - consider importance of approaches to Alnwick litter, no real landscaping on Lionheart enterprise park at entrance or within - groups of REAL trees needed (not ornamental garden trees) placed strategically, in groups, to soften starkness of soulless buildings

ALL of the above 10 options are extremely important if we are develop & maintain an effective, respected & "loved" environment!!

All human achievement is through team-work; the best team is a community. To improve our lives we all need to work together for that objective. Education for everyone, especially young people is essential; to achieve this we need to motivate them by interesting opportunities and facilities.

Transport links to New castle and to the local villages is a major issue!

There needs to be affordable housing. Alnwick needs to develop as a tourist centre. More attractive shops with late + sunday opening Better public toilets!!

High school should be a top priority. Local people should have priority to affordable housing before people coming into the area. Alnwick ladies hockey team still have no home ground and have to travel to Longhirst at their own expense

Transport, housing and improving the range of shops as what I believe to be the most vital aspects for improvement

I do not support making the A1 a dual carriage way I do not object to car parking charges if they are kept to a sensible level

Tourism. Preserve what we have but don't over do promotion of it.

Need more drop curbs for pedestrians No car parking in Market Place

Maybe a park and ride scheme - even only a seasonal one would help

Please improve public transport regularly. No more car parks. Tourist facilities are great but we wouldn't want Alnwick to become a theme park - jobs and housing are really important

An important town like Alnwick should have a rail facility - it has a station. Alnwick is a unique country town upholding traditional values. It should not go the way of Morpeth, for example, devaluing its main street

Town councillors are being asked to take on additional responsibilities - give them the training to do this effectively

Access to bus services is a primary concern given my mobility problems. However I am also keen to preserve the character of Alnwick town centre and therefore would be interested in being consulted with regarding to planning

Education ideas and housing must be developed together

All the items listed are desirable, however under current planning laws any plan will fall flat - planning laws need to be reviewed.

Replace, repair and renew the footpath from The Oaks roundabout to the cemetery on the fire station side of South Road and provide safe crossings of crossing the road in the same section

Lots of issues have great support from various voluntary bodies. Nice if you could help them function - maybe be favourable rents or help with transport.

Improve disability footpath access around the town - its sucks!!

Unless someone puts a real fight for the A1 dualling, Alnwick will never prosper in terms of jobs. Without jobs everything else is irrelevant. Education and jobs are the key to everything else

Free parking is vital for Alnwick

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Free parking for Alnwick. It is vital to keep shoppers local - to support our high street

The need for a new high school is vital. Whereas other areas are aspirational

RE 2, 3 and 8: Preventing the spread of wind turbines and wind farms, since these impact adversely on these issues

Number 6. Do you know what the future needs will be?

Bus doesn't meet train any more!

Free car parking is a must no wonder people go elsewhere!

cycle links are very poor, relying on the use of roads instead of cycleways

Insufficient disabled parking

All day parking/parking charges

Equality of county wide parking schemes Improvements of high school a priority Dualling of A1 - understand not a lack of funding issue!

Maybe the shop owners could help by opening on Sundays + bank holidays! Some are still working the 50 + 60's era!!!

Employment. Tourism - I see tourism as a key driver for our local economy - hence rated highly Transport - I would like to 'de-car' the town centre, hence have given your question A (3)

I think Alnwick needs a lot more things for children to do

A new high school should be priority as well as improving the quality and variety of shops in the town centre

Involving people in consulting and theming ideas

Sainsbury is still difficult to reach safely as a pedestrian unless you walk all around Wagon Way Road. South Road is dangerous for pedestrians

I believe there is ample parking with the addition of the gardens parking

The parking charges should be less per hour and the stay time longer. There are not enough places to park all day! A permit should allow you to park anywhere all day

Park + ride - e.g. near Lidl not in the town centre. The existing green space MUST be preserved/conserved against inappropriate exploitation of green spaces for new housing developments e.g. site of former primary school

Remove all speed bumps

Would like to have seen more consideration for elderly folk. There seems to be a bias towards the younger population

We need to have a direct bus to the Wansbeck Hospital at this time it takes 3 buses to get there.

a toilet at the bus station

Please read gazette Thursday 5th Jan page 11 letter headed "Be proud of lights but not dog dirt" Improving pedestrian links should include the policing of the above safety risks to the health and of the young and the of paving stones would help anxiety of the ageing!!

Stop cars from parking on footpaths all over Alnwick. Why should pedestrians have to walk on the road

Free parking in Alnwick would encourage greater use of town centre shops.

Transport - reduce congestion + traffic speed within Alnwick

No more flats - but affordable housing with car parking. Market Place - car free

Encourage anything other than coffee shops to the town!

Willis' garage site could be used as a new bus station with a town service from there. Existing bus station + office is an eye sore + could be turned into further parking or pedestrian area.

Residents who live in the centre of town should have free parking permits for 1 car per house

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Why is Chapel Lands not included in the town bus service. I feel very strongly about this.

Not to let the new planning laws affect listed buildings status and plans

Willow burn to expensive! Consult locals on what shops they want : i.e. through vote we didn't need "Costa"

Recycling facilities need to be increased + improved Public transport is really bad - there needs to be better bus - train links and more reliable public available at cheaper cost

Bus service early morning to be retained as teenagers need this to go to New castle college

Community facilities - creat an interactive website for local community to help facilitate creation of ideas re. promoting tourism/entrepreneurship

Tourism focus must be balanced with the needs of permanent residents, particularly young people Item 9 - also need to provide play space local to housing; there are many family homes where the nearest play park is beyond the reach of toddlers and young children, forcing reliance on cars or non-use of the park

The provision of facilities, areas etc. Must include the maintenance and upkeep to prevent the decline we are currently facing in several areas around Alnwick

Where I have circled a 3 - it simply means that these aspects are already in place/not severely threatened so just need maintaining

The Baliffgate part of the high school is in disrepair and having two parts of the school is ridiculous, not to say dangerous where crossing the road applies

To curb the increase - costs of sporting activities at Willow burn Leisure centre. They increase their charges above inflation rates

Present bus station + Arriva office is a blight on Alnwick. Perhaps new one could be built on Willis' old site with a centre shuttle bus

A new high school should be top priority for Alnwick never mind wasting money on needless things when the economy is so weak, Alnwick has sufficient parks etc.

Make sure that Alnwick gets an equal share of County Council money, that the money isn't all going to other areas of the county. After all we are the county town of Northumberland

I find the bottom of Wagon Way Road quite dangerous when trying to cross, traffic coming from all directions

Car parking charges are a major factor in the appearance of "dead" high street. Lack of parking is another factor but charge is the worst.

More disabled parking

Include Chapel Lanes on the town service bus route ie. Alnwick - Amble At present we are on the Bamburgh route via Sainsbury's but have to wait 3 hours for a return bus!!! Originally there was a return bus 1 hour later. The current bus also does not connect with the times of the New castle service consequently no-one uses the service

Really need to ensure another petrol provider More flexibility about vacant sites/change of use Recycling - why do we still put in general waste so much of that is recycled by other authorities

Up-grading the bus station is very important for visitors + residents alike.

Concerned about dog fouling and the state of pavements

I believe the town would benefit greatly having free parking. Remove congestion from residential streets and encourage more people into the town increasing takings in shops and restaurants

I'm for the improving of transport links generally, but I don't see any need for more parking specifically. I'd like to see better cycle links to other villages. There is no safe way for cyclists (who are often tourists) to get from Alnmouth to Alnwick

Litter + fly tipping spoil our environment, more should be done about both of these

Signing ie. Finger signs needed Toilets outside Northumberland Hall toilets

One way traffic system More rentable property

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

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Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

You had the perfect place to put a car park at the side of morrison's, why didn't you? This is what Alnwick needs to thrive not more housing

Why opened by money of the footpaths statue and leave it looking down a back street like a medieval manager? Put it in the middle of the roundabout at the southern access out road

Dreadful state of the pavements around Alnwick

Disabled access, wheelchair use made difficult by lack of dropped curbs, rubbish crops up all over the place

Green space very important to maintain within Alnwick ie. existing spaces stuck as schools, playing fields. Should not be used for building new properties which could be incorporated within town boundary areas.

Cycle lanes required

Both the South Road and Willowburn themes need to be full pedestrianised on both sides of the road. There needs to be better bus connections to the railway station at Alnmouth with 'through' kiltering. More bus shelters would be helpful too!

More free parking in line with the rest of Northumberland

I have lived in Alnwick for about 25 years and have been shocked by the traffic and lack of parking in the town in the last 3 years particularly

Please get the cars out of the market place

6 - Housing - concern about no. of houses outstripping facilities like parking places available in flats + congestion in roads.

Keep + encourage individual businesses + small entrepreneurial opportunities and not large businesses ie. supermarket + shopping chains. Alnwick's strength is its individual shops

Providing our town with a new high school has to be the highest priority

Northumberland estates and the castle have enormous power and influence in this county and beyond. Efforts must be made to work closely with them to ensure that their interests and priorities do not conflict with those of town and surrounding area

Dog fouling is a high problem, I would like to see streets cleaner with the wheeled carts back on the streets to deal with the litter all around the town

Keeping the town service bus going as it is very necessary for the elderly and disabled, especially as I live in Blacklaw Court and am disabled. So are many elderly people that live along the route

Pedestrians - Improving footpaths in the town especially Alnmouth Road to Allerburn Lea

Roundabout needed at war memorial + multi-storey car park needed

Extended town bus service to include Chapel Lands

It is essential + have some pedestrianisation in the centre of Alnwick

Off road parking for residents is very difficult during summer months as transits park in front of houses - this is very frustrating - not enough resident parking

Do not remove the travelsure town service. AS the drivers are polite and well mannered, not like the Arriva drivers who are not

Car parking is a major issue for residents near town centre - workers parking all day - there is not enough parking space and they have to pay!!

Keeping pavements + streets litter free

Greater job opportunities in the Alnwick area is extremely important in order to remain the youth in the area. They are our future Alnwick residents!

Ensure that pavement areas are not obstructed by retail items/advertisement boards More care of market place area

Education must be a number 1 priority - a new high school is essential

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Cyclists are a danger to themselves and to motorists - they should be licensed and identifiable. There is a real need for residential parking. We live on the Bondgate Without and have no parking during the day, we dare not move our car as tourists + office workers jump in - not helpful with all my husbands hospital appointments - I often have to use public car parking when we get back

Improving on car parking outside your own shop to be changed to more than 2 hours if you have a permit

2, 5, 7 - Very important for our young people (birth onwards) to encourage outdoor activity, healthy living + rib prospects

I believe top priority should be given to education and employment. How many employers offer apprenticeships?

Our teenagers have nothing to do to fill their social time etc. Youth clubs, ten pin bowling alley

Sort out illegal parking on double + single yellow lines and on pavements and the market place

I Don't believe that it is the role of the council to provide housing + employment. at least it should not be a council priority. However the council should do more to support small businesses e.g. by cutting back some of the 'red tape'

Flat block

Facilities for youth

Bus timetables you can rely on are most important if you want old folk to use all facilities

Clean up old buildings. More open space in town. Get cars out of market place

Park and ride for tourists Cheaper car parking for locals. Stop shoppers going to Cramlington and Ashington, Kelso for main shop and the metro for clothing. Cheaper petrol

Alnwick closes down at 5:30pm, shops close, cafes close. As a resident I notice visitors looking for a cafe that's open. The last bus (local service) is even at 5:30pm

Q2 - but particularly 'provide' but to keep what is already available Q10 - not so much 'improving' as 'providing' sensible transport links

New high school on one site urgently needed Would not like to see very large housing estates on green land. Better to use redundant areas.

How can one say these are not important matters? Prioritising depends hardly on age + circumstances. Whatever the high market, priorities have been determined!

The town centre should be enabled to prosper from the visitors to castle/gardens and commercial rents for retail premises need to be fair to offer new shops to give Alnwick town a chance

Feel our heritage + environment is so important to preserve for the younger generation as well as all future benefits. Feel that educational facilities + resources are vital

Car parking in market place needs to be sorted. Market place used to be centre of town, I wish it still was.

Cycle way to the coast. Reusing old railway lines

I think that the Alnwick bike track at Allerburn Lea should be open to public or a opportunistic suggestion

Retail and tourism - matching the quality of shops and restaurants now in Morpeth would help Alnwick draw tourists already visiting the castle and gardens into the town

Arts centres are such as The Playhouse are central to many youths in Alnwick - this needs to be maintained!

Better range of clothing stores

Cheaper bus fares + later buses

Too easy to say 5 to everything - should force others say pick 1st 3 preferences and last 3 preferences

200 yards of grass footpath should be paved between the station + cemetery. Off road pedestrian + cycle links between Alnwick, Lesbury, Alnmouth, Boulmer, Longhoughton, Denwick, Alnwick - as seen in lake district

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Cycle track developed and promoted from Alnwick to the Coast (Alnwick - Alnmouth) to link in with east coast rail links - National cycle way - this would provide tourist income to town - promote new hostel

I don't feel I know what's in the plan any better from this

Public toilets are very poor - particular problem for tourists/visitors. Litter, dog waste etc. in public areas

The A1 dualing needs to be higher on the agenda - more fatalities over Christmas!! As a major truck road it is a disgrace

The most important thing is preserving Alnwick's unique market town character. Good to improve facilities but NEVER at the expense of character. Green space + rural character more important than development.

Parking in Alnwick is a disgrace we live on Clayport Street and CANNOT access our own homes for people parking all day and night.

Preserve and enhance green open spaces and play areas. Do not let new housing / car parks take over and spoil what is here. Unemployment is the worst problem.

They are all important

I think it is important that Alnwick doesn't focus too much on tourism, residents need facilities too.

More green tracks and cycle routes - linking town centre to residential areas. Transport to be more environmentally friendly and connecting town centre to larger shops and retail on the outskirts.

Remember that the Percy family aren't the be all and end all in this town

It is no good further promoting Alnwick - as it is hard finding parking spaces are now between April-November unless you provide a new good size parking area or build above the end Greenfell Lane existing car park

Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Analysis...: Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Filter.....: All Respondents

You:	Where you live:	Your community:
The fact that the Alnwick Garden Car Park is listed as town parking. It isn't! The public parking in town is totally inadequate for a major tourist destination.	The disgraceful state of the roads and walkways throughout the town and surrounding residential areas.	All of the above.
The need to detect and heavily fine dog owners who let their pets shit on the pavements and footpaths around Alnwick and don't clean it up. There was yet another letter to the Gazette about this recently from a tourist. It damages the reputation of this otherwise lovely town and is unpleasant for those of us who live here. It really is inexcusable that dog owners do not take responsibility for the natural functions of their pets!!	Ditto above	Ditto above
Now here local to shop on returning to town after 6pm after work	Poor marketing and cohesion between parties involved in tourism marketing and the Alnwick experience as a 'brand'	
I would like to see a strategy to raise awareness of sustainable living and build in local ecological resilience into the plan, in light of the predictions for 'climate change' in the future. Adequate provision for the elderly, in light of predictions for an ageing population, become a reality.	Alnwick	
Lack of local employment opportunities will create nothing more than commuter town with people working in Newcastle. Appears to be no investment in new business in town which is slowly & surely going into long term hibernation.		Desperate need for new High School building still. How long have we been talking about this?!
		Proper focus on traffic calming & pedestrianization
The lack of 'residents only' parking	The lack of 'residents only' parking in Prudhoe Street	The need for a solution to the parking problems encountered by shoppers and, of even more importance, by visitors.
The lack of 'residents only' parking	The lack of 'residents only' parking in Prudhoe Street	The need for a solution to the parking problems encountered by shoppers and, of even more importance, by visitors.

Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Analysis...: Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Filter.....: All Respondents

You:	Where you live:	Your community:
		Encouraging more volunteer work in all aspects of life, from youth groups such as Guiding and Scouting to community shops, Alnwick Playhouse, Bailiffgate Museum, etc
	I suspect this might be something more for the County Council but if the footpath approaching and leading from the roundabout at the Oaks Hotel and where the new entrance to St. Paul's school has been created could be salted when it is icy that would be very helpful as both are 'frost pockets' and trying to watch where to place your feet as well as keeping an eye on the traffic is not easy; they are often icy when other parts of the footpath are free of ice.	
Recycling - bins not monitored to correct items in blue bin	Clearing litter, rubbish and dog poo	
Parking already mentioned especially in Alnwick Town Centre		Second homes & villages without locals
To see a police presence		
Help to reduce high energy bills!!!	22 Westgate House, Alnwick	Alnwick area
	Preserving Alnwick as a market town and avoiding becoming a demitery town	
Employment in Newcastle/Sunderland etc - quick, early buses NEEDED!	Alnwick	
		Provision of places for young people to go other than pubs - e.g. good quality non-alcoholic bar/cafe - where they can 'hang out' and its 'cool' to do so
A1. The A1 is the major transport link, North & South. Every effort should be made to get it dual carriage way from Alnwick to the border, it affects commercial, tourist and local users	Lack of investment of public money in North Northumberland. Every effort should be made to make sure we get our fair share of government money. At present we get the lowest amount of government money per head of population	
More focus on services at the Alnwick Hospital to avoid travelling to Wansbeck	Poor condition and sparcity of street trees	Lack of proper establishment, poor maintenance and loss of street trees in town centre and car parks
	litter, lack of garden maintenance, salting of roads in winter	pavemtn condition, road condition, I think there should be more nature preserves - old rubbish tips - that kind of place

Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Analysis...: Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Filter.....: All Respondents

You:	Where you live:	Your community:
	close the avenue west of the rugby club	close co-op store at 7pm
	Dualling the A1	
scooping poop		
accessibility of some streets for vehicles, notably upper Howick St. Should it be made one way?		
		Green bins need to be collected every week
		More attention should be paid to street & gutters - Path Cleaning
Are we affected by NOISE - YES - from Alnwick Garden functions	The possible undesirable development of Alnwick Gardens which was supposed to provide residents with a PEACEFUL visiting place	
A1 dualling + all local footpaths + roads	lack of maintenance eg. grass cutting/ hedge cutting (footpaths can be almost unusable)	Hedge cutting to allow road signs to be visible. Some signs are obscured. For health free pest control
The state of the pavements in the town centre		
The use of pavements by drivers	People waving to walk on the roads	Elderly people not able to use the pavements
Access for the disabled		
Why is parking in Alnwick so much more expensive than in Morpeth?	Why was Christmas free parking so curtailed this Christmas - What happened to the free week?	
Recycling of glass facilities - why not collected by the council?		
	Dog mess	Abuse of public spaces eg. Swansfield Park
		The amount of dog dirt in the town
		The streets are cluttered with unnecessary signage and road markings which should be removed to enhance the appearance of the whole town centre.
dog and cat fouling		
	Traffic camera in Springfield park needs removing or at least reducing in height - dangerous when icy	

Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Analysis...: Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Filter.....: All Respondents

You:	Where you live:	Your community:
Future development of the Lionheart Enterprise/Industrial Park or the Aln Valley Railway should not be allowed to adversely affect myself or other residents at East Cawledge Park	Access to East Cawledge Park via the lane connected to the A1 slip road should be retained both during and after the construction of the Aln Valley Railway	There is a need to enhance the appearance of the area from the A1 underpass to the A1 South - the backyard of Blackshaw's garage is an eyesore and requires screening; grass verges are periodically damaged by heavy vehicles and require smoothing; rubbish is blown from off the Lionheart, litters the area and requires regular collection
	Policing in the community - seems to be very lax regarding parking & alcohol	
lack of cctv in off-centre areas, lack of police foot patrols at pub closing times		
	properly affordable housing	
This is a community of people not numbers		Providing peaceful and safe areas against anti-social behaviour from drunks and boisterous youths
	Litter, dog droppings, lack of town parking for Alnwick residents use in town	
		Youth Facilities
Agricultural land use for buildings		
Litter and unsightly bins in back lanes/co-op litter/road litter and overflowing bins		
wider re-cycling of rubbish	Pathways need repairing. An old neighbour had a dreadful fall on a pathway near me	The need for individuals to be more respectful of the town & environment - to use litter bins!!
Car parking outside of schools	Lindisfarne road	Crossing for childrens safety eg. Pelican
maintaining Alnwick hospital facilities		
Litter, I'm on a rat 'run' by those who walk to school and their crisp packets, drinks and sweet papers are dropped along our street on a daily basis. It also occurs with hidden underage drinking venues.	A proportion of tourists are careless of the places they visit and drop their litter for others to clear up.	The above, all of which is inevitable, should be tackled more formally with a proper Litter Committee.
	Improved maintenance to the minor roads and footways around the edge of the town centre and better control of everyday parking to keep vehicles off the footpaths.	Enhancement - not just protection - of the total townscape of Alnwick and the careful composition of the town and its growth in the overall Alnwick/Denwick landscape.

Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Analysis...: Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Filter.....: All Respondents

You:	Where you live:	Your community:
We live on a main route onto the centre of Alnwick + the traffic calming humps have been removed. We need speed cameras to stop the speeding cars that race along the road		
more competition regarding supermarkets and petrol stations		
I have a mental illness	During winter months roads should be gritted during early mornings 5-6am, too late 7.45am. As stated in local newspaper (Journal)	To keep Alnwick day care centre running as essential to my mental wellbeing
	Maintenance of unused allotments. the allotments behind Swansfield Pk Rd are a disgrace if the council bottomed them, I'm sure people would take them on.	
Dog dirt, litter, petty vandalism	The above	The above plus potholes and poor pavements
Roads around housing estates in bad state		
Provision of bus shelters is sadly lacking	Oaky backs has not even got a seat at either bus stop!!	Communication with the county council is very poor as letters not answered
	there is going to be an accident one of these days because of the school transport along Swansfield Road and up Lindisfarn Road with cars	
More council housing for families - IE 3 bedroom houses, not 2 bedroom flats	Roads made easier during winter, being gritted	Parking facilities - cheaper or free
see above - parking, A1		parking A1
	Dog fouling	
Nothing stated as regards to improvement of facilities for the elderly		
	Parking! Perhaps residents stickers and designated spots to park	
	Too many large vehicles using green bays	
Far too much dog poo on our streets. Lack of tune up for dropping litter; misuse of the 'Summer Seats'. Request the removal of the seats!	See point 11	See point 11 - Too many empty properties - OLD & new
	Improving recycling facilities & encouraging shops, people & businesses to become environmentally friendly & conscious	

Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Analysis...: Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Filter.....: All Respondents

You:	Where you live:	Your community:
	Improve A1 - needed for tourism	Tourism - Alnwick just closes down on critical periods. The old dog mess problem young people. absolutely nothing for them in Alnwick and no encouragement
	Maintenance and enhance some of our surroundings (public space and privately owned spaces that impact strongly on equality)	
Health and wellbeing - aging population & limited public transport links to Wansbeck/New castle & cost. Easy access to health services is a determining factor for quality of life for all ages	Consider the impact if infirmary closed - a reduced service	
Safe road crossing for all at the War Memorial end of town it is a multi junction and very busy no-one seems to improve it		
Ramps for wheelchairs e.g. rollators		
Car parking prices must be brought in line with the rest of Northumberland		
	Keep clear signs on roads need repainted on drop kerbs in town centre i.e. Iceland and WHSmith area	
A cycle lane all the way to Alnmouth Station is required. Car parking has been massively increased, free at Alnmouth Station, people now park for days at a time so the problem remains. Buses must reliably connect with more trains.		
	Parking on the street/outside of your own home	
	It is probably outside the remit of this questionnaire but the down grading of services offered in the local infirmary is far more of using the Wansbeck hospital. Must have led to less of a feeling of community in the town - to say nothing inconvenient + distress thus caused especially to the elderly.	
Disabled access needs a complete re-think to allow access for all	Alnwick needs to grow to develop and this needs to be planned for more debate on different scenarios needed not 'pat' answers	A more vibrant presentation of town needed and tidy up street clutter, makes walking round town difficult and signs often misleading

Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Analysis...: Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Filter.....: All Respondents

You:	Where you live:	Your community:
Poor state of road crossings & pedestrians areas e.g. cobbles inadequate pedestrian crossing & worn out road markings	Poor access routs & pavements crossings for people with mobility restrictions (mobility scooters especially) esp. arounds junction of Bondgate Within/Narrow gate& route from Narrow gate into Market Place	Plan should consider growth options. If town was planned to grow e.g. 10%, 20% would this help to invest in new /improved facilities etc?
Disabled access - I am disabled and find road surfaces often dangerous. Dropped curbs obstructed and often not on both sides of the road e.g. Narrow gate disabled parking had no drop curb except on the opposite side of the road, access to Market Place blocked by bollard. Access to path by Barter Books has no drop curb over car access		
Revisiting the civic trust improvement plan for the centre of Alnwick	Its quite worrying to see the amount of litter lying around. Maybe more litter bins and eye-catching signs threatening a fine!	
I believe there are not enough facilities for teenagers e.g. skate park, places to ride bikes, keep them fit and out of trouble		
Prices of fuel	We have to drive to surrounding areas to fill up as Alnwick fuel station is too expensive	
Ensure any further development on the Lionheart park does not adversely affect the residents of the East C Park	Ensure that the access lane from the main road to East Caw Park during and after the construction of the Aln Valley Railway	Minimise the lighting on the Lionheart park Screening needed on lane at the back of Blackshaw's garage Rubbish to be collected at intervals (left by cars) Verges at entrance to lane ploughed by heavy vehicles
	Gritting on Allern Lea is essential (because of the hills + north facing) In 3 years I have lived here is has been very good - Well Done!	Dog poo & inconsiderate parking - (especially parking across dropped curbs for wheelchair users)
Recycling of waste to preserve the environment for the next generation, needs to be compulsory		Renewable energy needs to be encouraged, especially smaller wind generators
Employment	Transport	Housing
Car parking - need to equate with other areas of Northumberland	We live in Whittingham - improved bus connections	The need for Alnwick to feeding a thriving Market Town. SUPPORT WINDFARMS

Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Analysis...: Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Filter.....: All Respondents

You:	Where you live:	Your community:
As a pedestrian senior citizen it is difficult to walk on footpaths because of cars parking on the paths	Dog fouling is a problem all over Alnwick. The whole town is in need of a clean up (other than Bondgate)	Visitors do walk up side streets and the impression they get is not good
	Repair the roads generally in the town, there are many potholes that need filling	
Homelessness		Shelters for homeless
Encourage town centre shopping - improve the market provision - more and different good quality goods	Use of the existing park as a dog run/toilet, fouling of the pavements by dogs, litter from school children, school buses causing congestion + nuisance	Ignoring the speed limits in town, chewing gum and general litter, more visible and effective policing
Alnwick comitary is one of my top priorities and should be left as it is with continued warden service. I also believe that the new section where I have bought plots 5 & 6 should not be extended	Baliffgate	Alnwick Town Centre
Availability of affordable housing either rent or to purchase	Lack of public transport + appalling provision for systlists + walker + those without cars	Access to high speed broadband
		Things for young people to do. The playhouse is admirable - great if you could support it more
Dog walks in the Alnwick area		
Roads & footpaths	Restrict the amount of greefield sites on the outskirts	
	Improved street cleaning	Enforcement of penalties for dog fouling
Winf turbines and wind farms. These are grossly inefficient, hugely expensive and ruin natural environemtn. They will have a negative impact on tourism and will permanently spoil our beautiful countryside. Natureis too fragile to withstand them.		
		There needs to be more police presence in areas where children congregate
		Thing for young people to do
Disabled parking		
I help with young peoples groups. There needs to be more facilities and help for young people.	Traffic in Parcy Terrace + the junction with Prudhoe Street.	More encouragement for local people to hlep themselves in the community i.e. keeping streets clear, litter, good neighbour hood schemes.

Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Analysis...: Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Filter.....: All Respondents

You:	Where you live:	Your community:
More attention to icy conditions on hilly roads in and around Alnwick	Allerburn Lea	Alnwick
Constant blocking or dropped curbs by baileys/iceland, mostly due to disabled drivers = please repaint	No police checks on double yellow parking	
As a business owner. I do not think it fair that I must park in the car aprks behind iceland etc. If I want all day parking and at the end of the working day 6pm or 7pm I must walk down dark lanes to the car carrying cash it is not safe and very risky.		Provision for the homeless especially 16-20 age group
More support for disabled people	CCTV in the place I live	
The fact there are only 1 lot of W.C	I think that the entrance to Ravensmede could be more defined, I cam home in an ambulance on thursday and I had to direct the driver	
I stay in Lisburn Street where I own a holiday cottage - generate local business + employment	Littering + drunkenness is a problem in Alnwick. Youth NEED meaningful activities. Lots on offer for the middle aged community though!	
Only one petrol filling station (a monopoly?)	Dreadfull state of local road surfaces (incl removing or at least lowering road hump to a less dangerous height)	General street cleanliness
Parking - free parking in Alnwick to encourage use of local shops		
Dog fouling	Dog fouling	Dog fouling
Traffic congestion	Speed bumps in Narrow gate to deter boy racers at night	
Nothing for young people to do	Alnwick	ie Bowling, cinema, ice rink, bike track, full size astro turf, skate park, playing fields - football
	Street cleanliness - litter + dog mess	
	BROADBAND SPEED	
Visual appearance of the town etc	Some shops look unattractive + uncared for	Roads and markings need repaired
Health Facilities		Health Facilities
Stop sending these glossy Northumberland County Council brochures, people just put them in the recycle. Put the money to better use!		
	Prevent unfinished building sites	Improved public toilet facilities
Lack of street cleaning generally	Autumn leaves never removed	Blocked drains

Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Analysis...: Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Filter.....: All Respondents

You:	Where you live:	Your community:
	Gardens + fencing not being looked at disgraceful at the bottom of Sycaamore avenue by the shop.	
	Rubbish collection to once a week for both recycled and general waste	More often street cleaning
	North community, no facilities for the young they have to go to the south of the town	
Schools fencing of green space under bogus 'safe guarding' arguments	As above	Over Alnwick's housing, we need to develop energy efficiency to reduce our dependence on imported fuel
Make the Duchess high school the best in the county and a lot of other stuff will naturally fall into place		
State of the pavements, heavy transport to blame	Prudhoe street town courts	
	Traffic noise + pavement to close to house	
	Jobs in Alnwick & better bus station and to get a better flow of visitors to get into town after being in the gardens + at the castle etc.	
	Street lighting not repaired/maintained	
Dog fouling at footways affect all areas + all people in + around Alnwick	Dog fouling at footways affect all areas + all people in + around Alnwick	Cleanliness of environment, dog fouling in very evident in all areas of Alnwick - dog wardens + on spot fines?
Tourism, the negative effect in summer immediate with tourists		
Mainly traffic through and in the town (personally I have to pay £250 a year to park outside my residence)		
Cars park on pavements forcing pedestrians to walk on the road	Pottergate	
Without the buses I would be stuck. If I want to go out in the evening I have to get a taxi or a lift.		
		see above
	A plan to tackle dog mess in the town	Parking in the market place - why is it now used as a car park?
McDonalds - for young people Entertainment - a cinema - bowling alley - children + young adults		
Drop pavement for scooters, we have to travel on road, the cars don't like it	Yes, we can't use the shaft cur for the height	

Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Analysis...: Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Filter.....: All Respondents

You:	Where you live:	Your community:
The cleaning of the filthy streets, mainly caused by dogs		
Dog fouling + pavements		Dog fouling remains a problem in parts of Alnwick
Resident car parking	Balliffgate	
'Us + them' mentality towards the visitors in the town. Very little on offer in the town for local people	Cost of living seems higher here than other parts of the NE ie. Berwick + Morpeth	Need another petrol station, there's no competition so we pay over the average for fuel. Public toilets in the market place, disgrace, portrays a bad image of the town
The miss use of parking in and around town centre	Poor maintenance of foot paths	
	Maintaining farming up to the town limits	
As above - we need resident only parking		
	Managing dog fouling more effectively which is making the environment 'foul'	
Neighbourhood watch should be re-instated	Pavements need more care in Alnwick	
		Untidy litter in alleyways
		Parking charges should be abolished
		Improve Alnwick's 'green' credentials by making public buildings more eco friendly, promoting reduce, reuse, recycle + use/production of green energy
LITTER- in and around Alnwick - it is shameful and does not help the image of the town. Try fining a few culprits and encourage 'good citizenship' in schools		
	No young people's facilities but drop in	Young people are not accepted
Better bus service be able to get a bus home from New castle after visit to the theatre. Road gritting	Improved transport, hourly service	Road gritting, steep hills
Direct transport, route to Ashington needed and more frequent bus to Berwick		A welcoming bus station, something on the lines of Morpeth. It does not give a good first impression for visitors
		Local open market/traders
	Speeding traffic in area around Oaks roundabout	
Lack of publicly available nappy changing facilities in Alnwick		

Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Analysis...: Q13a, Q13b, Q13c

Filter.....: All Respondents

You:	Where you live:	Your community:
Anti social behaviour	Yes	Yes
Dog poo on the grass verges and green spaces	Dog poo. A lack of community cohesion	Duchess High School - a terrible school for High School Children - need a new building Unemployment - poverty of opportunities The A1 is a death trap and needs to be dualled
Market place needs to be revitalised - no cars but a safe space with more going on. Encourage more small businesses	Greener energy projects + new ideas about encouraging people to set more 'communally'. Sharing ideas + acting on them	Emergency for young people - crash pad - more support for young people and families who have had economical stability withdrawn as are suffering from the knock on effect
On pavement - parking, market place parking must be decided and followed through	Alnwick	Alnwick
Resident parking schemes for 'close to town centre' residential areas	as above	Too many coffee shops in Alnwick

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

My comments about the bus station are recorded above. A total re-siting of the bus station would allow more space for further car parking and transport improvements.

It would seem to me that almost everyone in Alnwick and Denwick is likely to put '5' for most, if not all, of the above issues. Given that there are not the resources available for many of them to come to fruition, I would have thought that an overwhelmingly positive response to everything wouldn't in fact be a lot of help to the planning committee. Perhaps some sort of ranking of priorities exercise might (have been) be more helpful?

The market has lost so many stall holders because of the very high rental, and in a word, rubbish plastic stalls. I know how bad they are through personal experience. The public toilets are an absolute disgrace especially the ones by the playhouse, they are falling down inside. Both buildings are very smelly, very dirty, and NEVER cleaned properly. What a showing up for Alnwick when visitors get off a coach and have to go to our public toilets, appalling.

There are many other ways for schools to raise funds to build any new school campus, these other avenues should be exhausted before the burden is placed upon the community.

Bus station situation almost impossible to address whilst land still in ownership of private business who don't have any incentive or reason to develop the site. Northumberland Hall is currently a 'white elephant', drinking £000s of tax payers money with a lack of any coherent strategy for its future which needs addressing. The shops beneath need to raise their game. This building has been surveyed and reported on many times over the past few years without any conclusions resulting. As a Grade I listed building, it could attract funding for improvements, but this would take time and effort that the town or county councils don't have at the moment. The Hall bookings are apparently miserably low. It needs taking in hand and developed into the Heart of Alnwick, not the Dead Centre of Alnwick! Corn Exchange area needs serious attention, as does General Lambert's House (opposite the hospice in Narrowgate) but being in private ownership, these are difficult to address.

The environment of Narrowgate & Fenkle Street seems to have been largely ignored and yet these are critical parts of the visitors experience of Alnwick; the large number of vacant shops in the vicinity creates a run-down impression and the traffic issues described above make it an unpleasant experience for visitors & residents

The bus station is an intimidating environment especially after school and in the evening when large groups of youths hang around. The bus station itself needs to be improved, but the youth need something else to do

I find the idea of a community-based renewable energy scheme very interesting but only if it did not include a monetary 'sweetener' for another project as I believe such schemes have the potential to divide rather than bond a community together.

Some education is needed to promote efficient recycling (use of blue bins e.g)

I think the development on the new high school is the most important project & long, long overdue. Secondly we desperately need a second filling station to give competition for the rip off prices we all have to pay for petrol & diesel.

Everything needs to improve - for the sake of our economy in the very near future - to also include to help youths from hanging around on street corners when they have nothing better to do!!!

Play area in Fairfield/Aydon View area

Duchess High School has been left truthfully to rot. How do you expect kids to learn in an old out-dated and frequently cold school. It would be interesting to note if this is a factor in children being off sick

I think the funding of citizens advice should be considered. There should be more funding of voluntary work throughout the town along with government guidelines

Improve the visitor access (+ opening times) to St Michaels parish church and methodist chapel (Wesley Pulpit and heritage) and pedestrianise the town centre

Youth centre not needed. Would be underused

Rising energy costs make a renewable energy scheme a very beneficial project to the community and for the environment. We feel it would be prudent to set out land aside now for such a facility as housing is increasing at a fast rate on most available land.

The bus station needs a toilet. Why was the original purpose built Youth Centre demolished?

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

New High School should a priority

I would suggest the council collected glass bottles ect. from the door step as they do with other recycling materials

Alnwick is veyr limited for youngsters. They need more facilities. Alnwick shop fronts need improving. Who w ants to see plastic facias on a tourist market tow n. Morpeth looks much better

Liaison with the Aln Valley Railway project, which could hugely increase the levels of inbound tourism and hence employment in the tow n if well promoted, UK wide, i.e "Coast to Castle" links

Stop parking in Market Place!

Bring back Alnwick fair week to encourage people to be involved in the community with more oppurtunities for all age groups.
DESPERATE for another petrol station

Market place a huge mess!! Enforce pedestrianisation of area - as for cars see section 11 - also improve look of Alnwick by enforcing traffic regulations on Bondgate Without to stop general parking + traffic light tower

The Northumberland Hall needs some improvements to continue as a venue for the music festival + charity events. The present stae of the bus station is disgraceful

Not sure what the community based renewable energy scheme means - wind farm, central heating from sewage, is it for everyone or just a few?

Rates for stall holders are far too high, lower them. And you will have a lot more people interested in having a stall. ALnwick Market is shocking! People need to make a living!! (some market town)

Maintain existing provision i.e. Youth drop in centre rather than develop something new

The bus station is a disgrace. It is ugly, badly maintained and dirty.

The High School is the top priority

"Round up" absentee or lazy landlords who neglect empty buildings/parts of buildings & somehow make them tidy up the property (eg. certain upper floors in the tow n centre, icluding "The Fleece Inn")

Do something about the old Corn Exchange building and its surroundings Sort out the wilderness and derelict building on the site at the junction of Grey Place and Dovecote Lane (opposite the Peth)

All parking to be banned in the market place

FREE renewable energy

The High School is in great need of a re-build, it is a disgrace to the tow n

A youth centre is well overdue. The youngsters need a focus in the tow n

If you improve the bus station you need to improve the bus services. The market place is a joke. It is a fabulous space that is under used. The markets need to be improved as at times they are just embarrassing. Stop cars parking on the place and use it more.

Please improve the bus station as everybody shivers in it in the winter

Bus station is a disgrace compared with Morpeth. Parking should be prohibited in the market place - to be used for a better focal point. Reduce the tsall rates to encourage more stalls. More frequent markets eg. farmers, antiques, books, commercial etc. A good Proper Christmas market - many stalls - held over a weekend or two

Provision of a purpose built youth centre - but not in tow n centre Improvements to Northumberland Hall - pull it dow and spice up market place

Yes, We need a new MP for Alnwick & Berwick

I don't think Alnwick needs any more clothes shops or coffe bars. We do need another petrol station

would like to see the bus station up-dated to include toilets

Better use could be made of school buildings and grounds. Under period supervision

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

I have included a community renewable energy resource as a 5 assuming it is owned by the local community. I'd also like to see a renewable energy project that could also be an educational resource, an employer and even an attraction. I'd like to see the market place free of cars and hosting more events.

More focus on the Market Place as Alnwick's central point with buses dropping off and picking up there at the back of Northumberland Hall. Exclusion currently no doubt arises from the various festivities there but these are few and far between. The weekly market could be less spread out to accommodate. The extensive illegal parking has a unpleasant whiff of mass contempt and is not a good example for the young.

More attention needs to be given to upgrading in all respects the streetscape of the town centre to put it on a level with the quality of care, composition and attention received by the Alnwick Garden and Castle. Then we can better promote the town, the Garden and the Castle as a single attraction.

My Grand-daughter goes to Duchess school and it is falling down. Its an accident waiting to happen

The market place needs to be pedestrians only, otherwise the money already spent will be wasted (again). Car parking bay lines will spoil it

The bus station in Alnwick is an eyesore. The Duchess school is falling to bits around the pupils ears. It is a disgrace + must be replaced A.S.A.P. Pupils should not have to commute between Bailiffgate Annexe and the main school. The market place should be a hive of activity not the dead space it is now.

not just a new or improved bus station, but also regularly updated bus timetables at all bus stops (e.g. Shilbottle Farriers Rise is out of date again...) => accessibility needs transparency! The current high school situation is an utter disgrace & should be given maximum priority

Development of new high school campus should be top priority. Also the bus station is very run down + cold, reflects badly on Alnwick. Youth centre needed to combat youth boredom + vandalism. Market place needs new stalls + rents for stalls + shops need to be more reasonable to attract new business + help existing businesses during these dire economic times

I think high school provision should be the highest priority of all. School buildings atrocious

The Northumberland Hall needs maintenance! I think the market place works quite well, but needs parking sorted out and more events like the food & craft festival. SPEED LIMIT THROUGHOUT ALNICK TO BE 20mph

The whole town needs a face lift. Time bring it up-to-date. (McDonalds, Starbucks, better out of town shopping). Berwick, Morpeth, Ashington and Hexham have it going (up-to-date)

Not sure what is meant by the renewable energy scheme

All important issues and agree bus station is not adequate + improvements to Northumberland Hall would be very beneficial as would improve the market place

The high school is a disgrace now I don't think my children should go to state of disrepair its in, its not safe

No parking in the market place should be allowed. Parking does not improve what should be pedestrian only

All schools need improving - not just the high school Better affordable shops to bring in people, not just tourists

Support for development of new outdoor sports centre

Start an 'e-mail' campaign to lobby Minister of Education + County Council to make funds available for the Duchess High School through gazette + council tax forms!

Improving side streets of debris i.e. St Michael Lane. House lane - Dodds lane etc

New high school should have priority above anything else. As is long overdue

Why improve bus station when services are being reduced?

To encourage people to shop in local shops, parking should be free

A new high school above all

Development of a new high school campus - This is a 10!! Town pride should begin with its school. This is very long over-due!!

A new high school is a must. Alnwick Bus Station is an eyesore and needs sorted

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

*improving the vitality of the Market Place - what does this mean? more parking?

(see 13) + still no new sign post indicating crossroads of Lisburn St with Percy Street (Pevey Terrace) Prudho Street. This has been missup since the paving was renewed

School first

Provision of a purpose built youth centre - Always hard to know where to site this. Facilities should be available for young people at other/present venues A community based renewable energy scheme - usually costly to install + maybe £ could be used better

The importance of local developments being carried out by local companies. The recent youth hostel project did not even get quotes from local companies, DP Builders only got the contract after Tyneside contractors came in over budget. Plumber - Newcastle? - Electrician - Sunderland?

Improve the streetscape throughout the town centre Systematic review/enhancement of car parking Improved link to Alnmouth Station, other than by private car

So far 10 topic areas without health is this an aspirational plan or considered to be a delivery vehicle? Given resources of town councils/ parish councils involved, how will these be delivered or managed?

The "renewable energy" at present in town does not seem to be successful. Waste of money more like

Market Place should be car free

Garden waste bins free to encourage people to use them

A new high school is urgent and the present bus station is a disgrace to the town

High school campus might be outdated but as long as children get right education from teachers/resources don't waste money

re-improving the vitality of the Market Place - Remove all parking

Bigger shops in the high street area i.e. Marks & Spencers and a department store

I don't agree with cars and vans using the Market Square as a car park, it looks tacky also why does the traffic warden never look beyond the town centre as many cars park on corners or junctions which in turn causes more problems with traffic flow.

From a visitor point of view coming into Alnwick is a depressing experience. Need better public transport links to Wooler, Rothbury

Northumberland Hall is a neglected asset - should be upgraded New bus station seems unlikely in near future, so what can be done to improve the existing (needs radical improvements!) Sort out the parking mess in the Market Place - allow some but better organised & with priority for disabled users

Renewable energy scheme should not include wind turbines. Should be run by private enterprise as public run schemes too cumbersome

I would like the Market Place to be as it was CAR FREE! The unrestricted 'free for all' at present is a ridiculous situation. Who wants to sit on the excellent benches surrounded by cars + fumes?

I saw on the news today about the money being spent in the North East on museums and Ashington is getting a £20m leisure centre! Surely money should be spent on our school soon

A new high school campus must be priority. The buildings have been out of date for many years & valuable teaching & learning time is lost whilst the students traipse from school to Baliffgate. Additionally, it's only a matter of time until a serious accident happens when they are crossing the road.

I have long thought that the old 'corn exchange' building would convert into a superb Bowling Alley - if only a millionaire would sponsor it!

A youth based project could quite possibly improve Alnwick's bus station on its own: by giving them (the younger generation) somewhere to go as there is a lack of things for them to do. And the high school really needs doing

Definitely need a new high school

Market Place currently just acts as a free car park - great scheme

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

A new school altogether is desperately needed. Rather than a new bus station, there should be improved bus links & timetables without monopoly & prices should be lowered. £7 to get to New castle is atrocious

Bus station is a bit of a blot on the landscape - No information office NON - development of new high school campus is becoming a sad joke- more force needed to push this forward

Being an enthusiastic cyclist I'm eagerly awaiting the opening of the proposed along the old railway bed (Alnwick - Alnmouth) as the road equivalent is a death trap. How about a cycle path on parts of old railway to Wooler??

Overhaul + staff the public toilets in the shambles! - they are an embarrassment to the people of Alnwick. What on earth do the tourists think when they can smell the toilets from the outside in the summer. URGENT!!

The high school is falling to bits & a new school is urgently needed

The town council should support wind farms + other renewable energy projects. A new high school campus could include a youth centre. A new/improved bus station will assist tourism

Northumberland Hall is not used enough to warrant large amounts of money being spent on up-dating if the price went up anymore to hire the hall it would be a white elephant

Alnwick Market Place should not be a free parking area. Strictly loading and unloading only

Youth Centre: What has to be "purpose built" about it? I would have thought there were adequate facilities in various venues. Beware of treating "youth" as a separate species

Each of these should be linked to job opportunities

It is important to keep our young townfolk active and focused - a youth centre would be a good contribution

The town would benefit from improvement in all these areas but I do strongly believe that Tesco should not be given permission to be built on the former Vauxhall site or in the Alnwick area at all as I believe that there is too many big stores in Alnwick

No mention of employment or jobs, absolutely crucial!!

Investment in existing community youth projects over new building

Dispose of Northumberland Hall - cash could be used better to make improvements to the bus station - only if funding for better public transport is provided. Market Place - surely it should be the traders who be tasked with this - ban cars to start with - less we end up with a fatality this year

Reduce the dominance of cars in the town centre to make it more attractive to walk around, whilst still maintaining necessary parking

I tend to think it better to support existing youth projects but somewhere for young people to hang out, OTHER THAN PUBS is needed. As is a TOILET in bus station!!

Northumberland Hall and Market Place vitality are connected New high school - 20 years overdue and vital

The Duchess high school building is a national disgrace, this has to be top priority. Things like renewable energy, bus station, market place are all "nice to have" but let's focus on real needs

The market square is not used enough & things are not advertised enough. A flea market for example would be ideal, the markets we have are a waste of time

Make more use of market place e.g. motor bike, classic car, cycle venues, antique, flea markets. Anything to attract sellers, visitors, buyers, to breathe more life + money into our lovely community!

More craft/fairs Farmers/German/French market to attract locals and tourists to Alnwick

Depends what improvements to Northumberland Hall are for. Again high school far too late!

Vitality important to develop a new high school campus!

The school is the most important item on this list

The Northumberland Hall (+ town hall) - market place all go hand in hand - should be seen as part of one project

More for children to do

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...
Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

When shops are empty encourage that lets for advertising or charity publicity or town publicity. Pressure should be put on owners to their properties or they will be fined. Reason of let rents too high.

I would like to see raised platform or wind shelter outside areas + under floor heating!

Market place needs to be returned to a safe place for pedestrians

Need bedsits or one bedroomed flats for young people where they have live in helpers who will give guidance and advice on budgeting, job seeking, healthy living, respect for each other and the law. 16+ youngsters need adult support and suitable role models.

New cinema, bowling alley or shopping complex

There should be more places for young people to stay for emergency accommodation

Toilets in bus station

Kitchen in Northumberland Hall needs improvement. Gallery Youth Project: exists but struggles with recruitment. Many drunk youth in streets of Alnwick in evenings. They should have a well market researched/needs analysed place to meet. Alcohol + littering a BIG PROBLEM. Greenery in the market place e.g. millennium oak, donated by the Duke?

Better bus service in Chapel Lands Stand car parking charges throughout Northumberland

Bring back car parking to the market place

I agree with the renewable energy scheme if it is financially viable and not to just tick boxes

I would rate a new and improved bus shelter and the new high school as essential - the first to promote tourism, which should benefit the town and the second would encourage pride and respect in our young people

What is a community based renewable energy scheme?

Market Place - essential that the pedestrian status be enhanced and parking stopped

The use of ground source heat pumps is eminently more sustainable in Alnwick over solar or wind. Our local geology makes this particularly desirable. It is also the only current system apart from local hydro schemes, that provides consistent energy over the year

Toilet facilities should be provided at the bus station

No wind farms in local spots

There are already 2 youth service providers who struggle for funding Development of high school a must has been in a state for too long Northumberland Hall - no improvements - but needs to be utilised more - ie, events

Duchess high school is a must. Pupils having to walk to Baliffgate is so dark ages education

New high school campus to be used more broadly to house education for adults, training schemes.

Bus station to be secured when bus are not running (similar to Morpeth)

Until the hire costs of the Northumberland Hall are more manageable, use will be limited. The condition of the hall is not the major issue

The bus station and surrounding area is a poor first impression given to visitors as they arrive in Alnwick. The high school campus is an embarrassment to the area.

These are all worthy projects but those I've circled with a 5 are absolutely essential

High school campus project as per my last comment - YES PLEASE

Market place has to be pedestrianised area. New high school is vital.

The market place and the Northumberland Hall have both had improvements in recent years the market place can wait. A new high school has to be the main major community concern. People who want to spend money on wasteful projects want to spend time sitting in a classroom in Baliffgate where its damp, plaster is falling off + rats are running

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

A new high school should be given top priority, I work in the high school and the condition of the school is a disgrace, bags outside at lunch time, children split between two buildings, travelling back and forward from Baliffgate. School should be secure and safe.

Before improving market place viability - identify potential

Renewable energy is only good if it is permanent, i.e. not reliant on wind - DEFRA non wind turbines or other non permanent features

What's all the fuss about the high school buildings - it's the standard of teaching that matters. I received a very good education (not in this county) in a variety of Victorian buildings with outside toilets

Reduce the cost of hire for Northumberland Hall so that more people would use it.

Not enough facilities for the kids at the north end of town

Certainly need more youth projects

The Northumberland Hall is a unique venue which is not being used to its full potential. The market place also is not used to its full potential and its beauty is spoilt by car parking - it's not a car park (free parking elsewhere would ease this)

The bus station is currently used by young people to congregate! There is shelter & seating. Could another area be developed for young people specifically so they don't annoy the general public? I believe the shelter by the river in Rothbury has been very successful

Sports and recreation for north end of town

I'd like to see Northumberland Hall actually used. Does it require improvements in order to be better used? Is it not just a case of actually promoting it better? The best way of improving the vitality of the market place is to get the cars out of it. Our market place is a disgrace as far as tourists are concerned

Other areas have much better recycling opportunities eg. Scottish Borders, collect practically everything - very little goes to waste. Needs to be developed here.

a new school facility must be the number one priority. Our children are our future

Government should not run renewable energy schemes for example Defra wind turbines, Wansbeck hospital turbine, all complete waste of money, they are never running!

Make Northumberland Hall into an arcade upstairs. I would give advice on how this could take place at Litter

I feel we should have a public loo near bus station or Morrisons. Market loos too far for people travelling on buses

Street cleaning. Sort how the council, sort a rota of work forces, our being sent out of town and bring in out of town forces that don't know the place and don't treat the people the same way + can be rude

Present bus station is an eyesore + needs demolishing so does the other mess the Arriva office

Sadly by the time the new high school gets built both my children will be in employment as it was meant to be built for my eldest son to taught there, he is 20 next week!

Prevent that no green space site are not used as development or for building

The bus station really is letting the town down, as it is the gateway for the increasing large numbers of visitors to the area. It's really not that for modern day purpose.

I have no idea why this may be important - I would thought that it would be more efficient to use facilities that may exist already - to ensure maximum use for each - minimising loss + possible social/community integration, responsibilities etc as for all age groups - I don't know where to rate this

Shoppers disc parking in market place and centre of town. The market place is more than big enough for parking & pedestrians. Alnwick is not the south of France, its north east Northumberland, cars are vital for trade in the town

I think a youth centre is essential with professional people in charge

I would like to see a "smoking area" of some sort at the bus station, as people get off the buses to smoke, the wind blows the smoke all over people waiting to get on the buses

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Solar panels on new houses a help with these where practical seems sensible for renewable scheme. New high school would be my priority

More provision for middle aged unemployed people on low incomes. More provision for elderly people to have social opportunities. Less emphasis on youth + spending on young people at the expense of the over 55 years

A new high school is desperately needed in Alnwick + should be the highest priority

I feel that senior citizens have many opportunities to participate in clubs, voluntary services, theatre, physical activities etc. I am concerned about the opportunities for young people and the condition of Duchess high school

The market place should not have cars. Plant some ornamental trees, bandstand, fountain - somewhere to meet + sit and relax. Music by choirs, bands, groups every week or so.

Provision for young people is vitally important as is improved/new high school

Investigate hydro-electric plant on the Aln

Repairing of wind turbines needed

Bus station with toilets

As funding is limited, what about a partnership for the provision of a youth centre. Eg. My local deli had overgrown its building. It could provide funds for a joint venture? or a multi purpose community facility?

As a person who has recently been made redundant + is looking to set out self employment. I was told not to bother having a stall in Alnwick to sell my homemade crafts because it was expensive and nobody came to it

Do not need another school as have plenty of them

No more cafes + hairdressers please, we need more variety. Increase local train services please (increase stoppage at Berwick + Morpeth + Alnmouth) Site waste facility is very good + there's good placement of bottle banks around the town

Any new community builds should have renewable energy as part of the development

If by renewable energy you mean wind turbines then this is a definite NO NO

Cars definitely shouldn't park in the market place. It loses all impact of the square. I hope after all this time the plans are ready for the new high school when/if funding ever materialises

We live in the conservation area, trying to get the council to be reasonable about renewable energy i.e. solar panels is a nightmare

I would like more information as to what you have in mind regarding renewable energy

New high school is my top priority

There should be a greater police presence day and night

Parking issues in market place need sorted

New high school + renewable energy - I do not feel sufficiently well informed to comment on these issues

School is priority

The high school is a condemned site

Bus station = URGENT! School is crumbling

Use the market place for more community projects e.g. outdoor theatre, local bands, concerts. Remove cars from the market place (NO PARKING) Conversation with visitors on coach trip to Alnwick. Nothing to look at, Market Place a mess. No shops

A better link between the bus station and railway station

The market on a Thursday is virtually non-existent and on a Saturday poorly supported by traders. Farmers Markets not as well supported as others I have been to e.g. Morpeth + Newcastle

Would not like to see lots of windmills as the ones we have are now dormant

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis...: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Unmarked idea indicates lack of knowledge sufficient

Provision of improved recycling facilities within Alnwick town centre, especially door-to-door or community based provision for recycling/collection of kitchen/green waste

Better school provision for high school

Development of new school campus is long overdue much needed. Even my youngest will not benefit

I live in Fullers Walk and am not concerned about the planned school/sport facilities. Though I agree a new school is needed can't anything be done with the existing schools. The traffic is dangerous now leaving the cul-de-sac without extra traffic

If the plans go ahead I am concerned about the traffic increase on Weavers Way. I live in Fullers Walk and it is dangerous now to get out of the cul-de-sac

Bus station needs to be cleaned regularly as priority + toilet at station

Town needed new school facilities when I attended Duchess High, my own children leave this year and it had still not been improved

The new school campus is well needed!

The Duchess high school is literally falling in + some classrooms are unusable due to leaks being right above the electrics and its cold

We need a new school!!

We need a new high school. It is disgusting !!

We need a new school!!!

Replace awful, tacky christmas lights on the arch + get quality simple lighting scheme - more like Warkworth cheaper and better!

Safe passage should be ensured for pedestrians through the market place

Additional project as at point 11

I am involved in running Alnwick Market hence my question about the Market Place. I am concerned this means improving the market over which the town council has no responsibility. The vitality of the market place could be improved if it wasn't a car park + if access to it was available. I also don't think the town council has any responsibility for which shops are in the market place + this would improve the vitality of the market place too. I would also be concerned if improvements affected the running of the market.

Improvements and/or rebuilding the high school is paramount - to give young people the facility they need and deserve, and to attract prospective parents and pupils who are no doubt increasingly considering other schools such as King Edwards

We have a high school delivering 1st class results from 3rd world facilities. An all weather surface for the school + local community

A pedestrian crossing near Sainsburys. Improvement of paths on Willowburn Trading Estate

Market place is already well maintained + lively - no need to improve just to maintain. Renewable energy scheme would be excellent if it is appropriate + cost-effective (e.g what energy source?)

Maintaining the overgrown trees

The market place needs lively community activity - food festival Alnwick music festival music performances outdoor cafe seats. Do NOT use it as a car park. Reduce car parking charges - it costs more to park in Alnwick than Newcastle City Centre.

Look at the buildings and organisations in the town. Can be used in a sustainable way - sharing buildings + skills More consultation with the community - talking to people

Parking in the market place must be sorted out. No-one seems to know the rules regarding parking. This must be sorted out. On pavement parking, wheelchair access is often covered. I object to walking on the road because drivers are uncaring

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Analysis.: Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Please use the box below for any additional comments you...

Don't spend/waste too much money on silly things like flower beds Bring parking back in to market place when not used for anything else

Bus companies should pay for the bus station and obviously a new school would be funded by selling the old one. So the priorities would be the youth centre and a renewable energy scheme

Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbou...

Analysis...: Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbou...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbou...

If we are to "preserve" Alnwick as a major tourist attraction, we must protect its environs and make them people friendly. If we do not we will find a decline in tourism as such. Pedestrianisation need not mean banning traffic, but limit the speed at which traffic travels to a walking pace, giving way to pedestrians. Thus deliveries would not be effected and Mrs. Cannybody's son can drop and collect his Mum from the hairdressers etc. Limit the number of "charity shops" to so many per street of square area. Whilst they are commendable, they rob people of the chance to work in normal retail because unlike them, shopkeepers have to pay wages, rates etc.

Please look at disabled access seriously - try going around area in a w/chair for a few days and then you may find some issues that need addressing that you were not aware of - accessibility is key to me

Graduate employment- I would like to see more done for retaining graduates who often have to leave the area. I appreciate there are not the wide array of opportunities in Alnwick compared to larger towns/cities, however, it would be good if there were more graduate schemes or perhaps support for self employment.

If you do not want empty shops then lower the rates. The pavements are a disgrace, loose and dangerous. Some of the kerbs are falling into the road. we need more dropped kerbs for the disabled and something done to stop people parking on them. Take a look at the sign posts down Narrow gate, people try to turn left at the bottom onto Fenkle Street, cannot be done. There are no visible road signs in Narrow gate. All this does not look good on Alnwick's CV. It puts people off coming. It's okay having a posh castle and gardens but if the town is not up to the castles same or similar standard people will spend their money elsewhere.

Re-establish a town development trust so that grant funding can be accessed to match ATC and/or NCC funding. DT did some excellent work, often behind the scenes and this should never have been allowed to discontinue. Alnwick town is already losing out on funding for improvements because they cannot be accessed by local authorities and this will only contribute to its demise, while towns like Morpeth continue to grow. Even a 6 month delay will result in Alnwick falling behind in the future.

Traffic management, calming & pedestrianization as appropriate, as an integral part of planning all issues & projects

I wish you well in establishing and actioning the more obvious priorities.

I wish you well in establishing and actioning the more obvious priorities.

The little alleyways off Bondgate Within are fascinating and without going to too much expense, restorative work to these would enhance them enormously and perhaps arouse the curiosity of some of the visitors to the town sufficiently to make them want to explore these and spend more time in the town itself.

A plan to clean up and improve the surrounding area on roadsides & hedgerows as well as education of young and old to make our countryside something to be proud of.

Make more people aware of it

Anyone who is unemployed - should be made to do a community service - to give something back when claiming benefits!!!

It would be useful to try and prioritise the projects

More for children to do and places to go

It is great to involve the local community in the planning process and we appreciate the opportunity to contribute

Neighbourhood plan should benefit local people who are permanent residents and not tourists

We have only just arrived in Alnwick so are not fully qualified to comment. (IT) is however a total "no-brainer". Why not mentioned?

It is essential to work to bring new industry to the area other than service industries to prevent loss of young talent from employment sector without this Alnwick will become dormitory town of aged people

We are desperate for a soft play centre for young children + toddlers since the Lions Den closed down

Encourage more prominent policing to deter "boy racers" and drink related problems on the streets at night

Health resources - how they fit/relate to under Alnwick community

Something done with Corn Exchange building

Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbou...

Analysis...: Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbou...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbou...

We would like to see a wider range of shops in the town centre and for the town NOT to become just charity shops, shoe shops and estate agents.

The future of Alnwick lies firmly with tourism, while I accept that the town can not be pickled in aspic, attempts must be made to preserve and enhance the beautiful old buildings around the town. Some of the developments in the last 20 years have spoilt the townscape and moves must be made to remedy this damage and prevent it happening again. The only way that tourists will continue to visit Alnwick will be if it remains an attractive and unique town.

Give more people who have lived in the Alnwick area all their lives more say in the local affairs - it appears new people coming here want to change everything to their advantage

Maintain momentum for local traders after visit of the olympic torch

Why on earth do we not have our own district council back?

No

Another petrol station is essential to provide competition

Does Alnwick town council have any say in planning matters in the town? Some decisions seem very arbitrary + there seems to be little cohesion of policy regarding planning overall in the district

People of every age group

The "survey" does not mention a use of land in agricultural use being redesignated for building purposes

People must look at employment in the Alnwick area because if not the younger generation may leave the area. The council must pull its finger out

Support for the activities which encourage tourists to spend time in the town eg. Alnwick International Music Festival (8 Day Event)

There needs to be more control of traffic near schools for the safety of the children and residents

Introduction of more litter collection, possibly manned in part on a voluntary basis. A tidy/clean town will promote itself.

Free parking the same as Ashington ect. Major repairs to roads and footpaths. Proper indoor bowling at the leisure centre

A new school in place of high school is vitally important

The childrens play areas need to be updated + checked regularly. We've visited the Charles Church play area with our grandson and had to leave because the chute had vomit all over it + on a few occasions it was evident that it had been used as a toilet

Please publicize it more. I've only heard about it by picking up a questionnaire at Willow burn, not heard about it on local radio, Cryer, leaflet drop, etc.

Social inclusion for people with a disability also better access for people in a wheelchair

applaud the need to have a neighbourhood plan but feel that none of the questions address the most basic need of all which is to improve the issues I have raised in answering question 13. My experience of living in Alnwick is diminished, as is a visitor's stay, by dog dirt, litter and petty vandalism. Until these are dealt with none of the rest will be of value. We need more litter bins, I'm sick of people using my front garden as a litter bin. Also I became aware 'Subway' had re-opened, by litter found half a mile away from the shop on the day it re opened, now I have to constantly pick up 'Subway' rubbish from my street. We need CCTV cameras to identify the culprits who let their dogs foul the area, the litter louts, and vandals who attack cars. The glass on my wing mirror has been broken in two separate incidents in the last 6 months and there have been half a dozen major incidents during the ten years we have lived here. Over New Year our guest discovered three hives we wouldn't need expensive cycle lanes and more pedestrian provision if the speed limit was dropped throughout the town to 20mph as it is on Swansfield Park Rd. This would improve the quality of life for residents and visitors alike, improve air quality, safety for children, prevent accidents, and deter road rage on narrow streets like Percy Tce and probably make no difference to journey times at all.

Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbou...

Analysis...: Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbou...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbou...

Need to deal with the litter and dog muck. Its everyw here you w alk and look around Alnwick

I hope these questionnaires will be carefully studied and w here possible acted upon

Communication to all residents and businesses should be automatic! You should not need to request to be informed!

More use of Northumberland hall (i.e. Craft show s etc)

More housing for elderly people

Whilst I understand all the issues to be important - The traffic + The high school can really damage the tow ns identity

the high school should be high priority. It hasn't changed since I w as there 30 years ago

Street lighting VERY inconsistent/uneconomic (?) Lamps in the 'conservation area' should be in the same style e.g. look at Lower/Upper Howick Street, Alnwick

There are quite a few nooks & crannies & lanes that are dirty and abound with litter. They are interesting short cuts & walks for locals & holiday maers. It w ould be good to have them enhanced.

We must do something to improve the morals and expectations of our young people fighting for a new high school

What is the intended scope of a neighbourhood plan? Need to distinguish betw een issues which are mainly the new er of the tow n council and those w here local view s w ill contribute to decision making taking place elsew here and affecting a wider area

All the points cover quality of life issues important to rural areas on an urban fringe - health & w ellbeing are important consideration under 'quality of life'

Better use of Market Place. Mus i.e pipe band - accordion band etc. (scats in summer for visitors r.e. residents)

The maintenance of roads is important, also footpaths, especially for older people The bac l lane w hich leads from Bridge Street to tehe back of Duke Street is in a terribel state and desepately needs repairing

Dog dirt

CCTV cameras How ling Lane/Beech Grove put up and left up, to stop A.S.B by youths and young adults

Outdoor gym equipment is common in Parks now and could be placed alongside childrens play areas

On our estate the cars park on the grass verges causing untol damage and more often then not its drivers visiting of delivery vans. I am a car owner its not me being bias

Regular information as to how the plan is progressing with public inout sort and listened to

Need imaginative scheme to improve shopping environment in Narrow gate. Re-route through traffic, limit vehicles in favour of pedestrians, improve floorscape etc - could be a much nicer area! Improve safe w alking & cycling routes from Alnwick to coast - w ould encourage "sustainable" tourism!

What aout the old corn exchange? - This is the place for the new youth activities centre - and improvement of the surrounding car parks

It shuld be realistic civent the current state of public finances - there is no point thinking up grand schemes that w ill never happen - lots of small improvements w ould be more possible

Buildings at risk!

Please, Please do something about the bus station (people arriving here and deaprtng by bus see and some leave litter. Not a good impression of our tow n) Twice litter bins needed and (green areas cleaned everyday) concrete station area?

Perhaps the plan could include some kind of introduction of services for the elderly, disabled or simply lonely? There are a lack of services in this area outside the NCC remit

I can't see how anyone w ould object to the ideas obtained here + how are they to be prioritised?? Particulrlarly in light of building restrictions

Traffic lights outside Playhouse are not in the right place

Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbou...

Analysis...: Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbou...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbou...

New school is absolutely fundamental. It should have been done years ago, it serves such a wide area.

Existing facilities are mostly adequate (schools, bus station etc.) Youth centre should give opportunities for fun and sport, affordably alongside encouragement for education and career training.

Improve links with Alnmouth rail station. This will assist local and tourism. Better public toilets!! Alnwick needs to modernise + join 21st century

It would be nice to see a policeman always on the streets to be able to talk to if necessary

I would like to see some prosecutions for littering and dog fouling

I note that the County Council is doing a housing survey. Please make sure that new housing is really what people need, rather than what developers want to build.

Why waste money on a logo - surely the money could be spent more wisely on more important issues

Maintain diversity of local businesses and retail outlets in Alnwick town and area and avoid becoming a 'clone town' with chains/multiples

Improved parking for residents and visitors is an issue which should be discussed. Rail links to the town centre would make a major impact towards encouraging tourism

Sometimes hard decisions will require to be made. Planning needs to review these - this will scupper any plans

Persuade castle and garden visitors to access and use the town

We are in tough times and need growth. That means jobs, education and infrastructure - this must be the focus - everything else will follow

Street cleaning & removal of dog excrement

Would have been more informative if a copy of the plan had been sent before receiving this questionnaire

Would like to see some challenging - outdoor activities for 'bored' teenagers. Wish I had some ideas.

Please not Tesco, Asda, etc, at all costs

With Denwick - Nothing there?

More things for kids to do

Look at derelict buildings in Alnwick e.g. The Corn Exchange. It is an eye sore but it's in the centre of Alnwick and an ideal spot for development of a young persons facility

The conception people have of Alnwick. Sewer outlet + resultant debris 100 meters below Peters Mill Bridge does nothing for Alnwick. Consider visiting - anglers - tourist - smell: + media reporting

More buses please!

Alnwick needs a return of the town bus service to enable the elderly and disabled retain their independence

Could old corn exchange be made into activity/art centre - where youth could meet - a youth community centre: internet cafe, photo room, sound insulated music rooms for groups/bands - a place to meet and feel valued?

Support for local clubs in area

More urgent actions to deal with agreed proposals

House building that is sensitive to the meeting the community adequate green space - adequate parking - adequate road

Traffic flows into and out of town could dramatically improved by 1. creating a roundabout incorporating the war memorial 2. removing the pelican crossing at Bondgate without and placing traffic signals either side of the Bondgate arch.

Ask locals including young people + children

More police working on the neighbourhood

Consider providing/creating a hub for innovation - encourage new business to make offices here

Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbou...

Analysis...: Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbou...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbou...

Not only do we need a neighbourhood plan but we need to enhance, preserve and "clean up" what we have. Several buildings and areas of Alnwick are declining rapidly

Take a good, hard look at Morpeth, Their shops (ie quality + variety) far surpass Alnwick. Lets not make Alnwick into one giant retail park! It is supposed to be a market town

The leisure centre at Alnwick is more expensive than others i.e Ashington and Morpeth. Children especially should be given the chance to participate in sports at cheaper admission fees.

The plan must not make Alnwick a less affordable place to live by simply raising taxes instead of thinking of affordable re-use facilities

Installation of toilet in bus station. Improvements to bus station (eg. Morpeth) Compulsory purchase followed by completion of brewery site Installation of roundabout at the War Memorial

To strat and clean the streets at the north end of the town + they are disgraceful especially Sycamore Avenue

Maximise community involvement in all areas + decisions

Schemes to get Alnwick's existing properties better insulated

Very important to provide employment & housing in local areas, especially employment for young people - give them a sense of purpose and community from the start. Not teaching them to rely on handouts

Free car parking would bring a huge boost to the local Alnwick economy

Litter

Yes the police do a better job instead on what doesn't cause them paperwork or just to score points, sad how people work these days

Alnwick hasn't really tapped the tourist potential in walking that the area offers. e.g. both Rothbury & Morpeth have walking festivals. Please refer to the 'Walkers are Welcome' scheme

More out of town parking, also as I used to live in Prudhoe Street, the traffic is very dangerous at St Pauls Corner

Also need to: Open up school playing fields in holidays more youth activities Bring back localism

More responsibility for the buildings in the town needs to be taken by the owners/landlords some are looking very dilapidated

AS quickly as possible please

Buses for Lindisfarne school should park and turn in the old Charles ribbon pool carpark so as to free up driving up Swansfield along Blakelaw and down Greensfield

as above

New housing development - I am very concerned about the spread of development onto Greefields when Brownfield land is available

Too many school buses parking at Swansfield Park Road at 3/3:30 pm

If the plan cannot only be accessibly on-line, this is not inclusive. I have no idea what is in the plan so I cannot comment. I would suggest you hold consultation sessions within the communities + include/target as many objectives as possible

Alnwick District meetings to be advertised and open for public attendance

New high school must be top at the top of line!!

As wide a range of facilities as possible (bearing in mind the present financial situation) to cover all age groups, interests and incomes. A tall order let us aim high

I have never seen the plan

Please try and bring some of the well known high street shops into Alnwick before the charity shops and estate agents kill it for good.

Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbou...

Analysis...: Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbou...

Filter.....: All Respondents

Do you have any other comments to make about the neighbou...

My main concern is the poor state of the bus station and limited transport links and more service to visitors to the town after 5:30pm

As a visitor -lovely friendly place - toilets! very important - flexibility of opening times for a cup of tea would be nice - barter books is a huge draw to the area - local accommodation is a bit pricey

Involvement with local voluntary organisations Design competitions for roads and town centre

Required. New toilet block. Urgent

Important to keep cottage hospital and maternity unit Should give support to 'Churches together' Plans for community and young people

1. Christmas lights (see above) 2. Promote live music in pubs - helps pubs + local artists

New high school to be re-sited near rugby club, cricket club, football club, sports centre + golf club + have adequate car park + access

Sports/Recreational facilities - The youth of Alnwick should be provided with facility such as the proposed bike track as soon as possible - they seem to have been idling sometime - time/money wasted on planning reports!

The Community Plan would need to be specific about what is to be scheduled by when. I think you should ask residents to prioritise new important the feel the issues are on Page 1

Change the council back the way it was. The new council might work for them, but not ordinary people having to live with it.

Better accommodation for GP surgeries - they don't have enough rooms Without economic prosperity - ie jobs for people the area will not prosper - everything else follows to improve the community facilities. Paying for parking in the hospital car park is outrageous.

Don't let the Northumberland estate denote the Alnwick area Allow the free market to build affordable housing (ie. bank top development)

Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan

Cross Cutting Discussion Forum 24.07.2012



Priorities for Alnwick and Denwick



Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Prioritise energy efficient measures across all homes, retail, commercial etc., to eradicate fuel poverty and combine this with community energy production to result in sustainable energy production /use on a local level, regardless of future fuel prices.	Sustainable transport solutions, cycle paths/green corridors to enable movement into and around the town and connecting areas to reduce the need for cars.	Sustainable economy/employment options that include more local food production green building and construction and green technology to give a wider provision of sustainable choice.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Footways in Alnwick and Denwick systematically upgraded to make them safe and convenient for less able pedestrians and wheelchair users and to make them look cared for and welcoming for visitors.	Enough parking opportunities created within easy and attractive walking distance of Alnwick town centre to enable the intrusion of non-essential vehicles into the town centre to be designed out by the re-design of the streetscape.	Constructive, life enhancing and skill enhancing activities to be devised and led in ways that engage young people in community life in and around Alnwick.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
More Affordable Housing.	Better Road and Pathway works.	Follow up on green land pitches plan and bike skate park.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
That the plan reflects the wishes of the local community and is actioned to do what it identifies as priorities.	To give the communities of Alnwick and Denwick a plan which maintains and enhances the wellbeing of its citizens.	More Housing that young people can live and grow in.



Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Create a planning environment which facilitates investment in infrastructure, commercial and housing development of all types to meet need.	Consider setting up a development vehicle (Corporation) to provide and facilitate.	Monitor progress and remain flexible.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Comprehensive plan covering the development of the town centre that enhances much of what is already there with regard to historical and architecture this making a visit to Alnwick even better than a visitor would anticipate. This would also benefit the local people as being around the town would be a more pleasurable experience and a hopeful outcome would be more money spent in town.	Provision of housing suitable for both young and older people which will give the town vibrancy and uphold the economy.	That we can believe what we are doing will bear fruit for all and be of benefit to the whole area covered by this plan.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Give Alnwick and identity or brand. Market the area to tourists across the country and abroad. We need to increase the amount of visitors and raise Alnwick's profile as a town and not just a castle and gardens.	Address parking, signage and environmental issues. Maintain streets, access and keep the place clean and tidy. This benefits tourists and locals.	No to an outside retail park. Alnwick is struggling without bringing in other competition. A better communication between all organisers, retailers and councillors.



Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
For all policy to be considered in light of environmental sustainability as the first priority. Future prosperity for Alnwick will rely on this in the full sense of the word.	Develop a community owned and run renewable energy project with all benefit to be shared by the community. This will also keep money circulating locally.	Consider sustainable transport provision, cycle pedestrian routes in new development and in upgrading existing transport links.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
I would like to see a holistic approach to the green infrastructure of Alnwick and enable cycle and walking routes, improved bio-diversity, street trees that look healthy and a really special place to be from the A1 to the moors.	I would like to see a better choice of shops in Alnwick more Sanderson Arcade than Ashington cheap shops. Also shops and cafes that stay open on Sundays and Bank holidays.	I would like to see no rubbish lying around after market days and cafes that can put chairs, tables and brollies out for customers.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
I want to see all residential roads in Alnwick made 20mph or have other speed restrictions put in place.	Visual impact of paths roads and wynds should be improved with cleanliness a high priority. Litter and dog fouling impair the visitor experience and depress local residents.	A green corridor through the town with cycle ways and footpaths made attractive with wild planting, trees and shrubs, natural wildlife areas and play areas incorporated.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
To make Alnwick a more prosperous place by shops being open 7 days a week including Sundays.	Look to offer a specific target market to run on the back of what we have.	Use the fantastic assets we already have to maximise our position in Northumberland.



Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
To deliver a sufficient supply and choice of housing using innovative delivery models to tackle the problems of young persons and elderly need.	To achieve a level of growth in Alnwick and Denwick that sustains service levels and provides employment and service opportunities.	To develop Alnwick with quality environments to a high design standard and link with green corridors.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
The plan must address the future maintenance and sustainability. More local provision of services and volunteering from the community.	Find a way to deal with the elephant in the room in relation to land ownership and the value of land.	The plan should set out “how” Alnwick and Denwick should be developed.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Alnwick and Denwick should have a unique and identifiable brand. A great place to live and visit.	Have an infrastructure that supports an excellent standard of living for locals and visitors.	The infrastructure should support continual growth and improvement for the area. (all supporting activities should be action based and measurable)
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Coordination of a historic market town approach to all elements e.g. transport, marketing, environment, culture, retail etc.	Commit funds to implementing it. Preferably not by NCC	Elucidate Educate Enervate



Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Better parking, better signage. 20mph in the town creating a shopper friendly town.	Improve all of the market place and surrounding area.	Identify a branding of the town
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
I would like to see Alnwick as a town developing its own identity as a visitor destination within distance from the Castle and Gardens.	I see Alnwick's infrastructure reflecting the level of affection visitors have for the area.	To see the people responsible for doing tasks to be made to be accountable for fulfilling them with civic pride.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
A spatial plan which links the needs of affordable housing, transport and infrastructure, a strong rural market economy.	An integrated action plan to promote the Alnwick experience. Castle and Gardens, other attractions retail, cafes, bars to visitors and locals, through good promotion, street scape and signage.	A plan to develop the Town Centre. Market Place and Northumberland hall as a community and seasonal visitor attraction or facility,
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
To be a desirable place for both a visitor and a resident.	For more connectivity between retail and leisure facilities, local services and amenities and for the town to hold some form of consistency.	For the place to foresee an economic boost for the town selling both Alnwick and Denwicks unique assets with bigger ventures such as the Castle and Gardens. To make use of the towns assets rather than waste their potential as is the norm now.



Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Accessibility should be considered in all decisions. Facilitating the movement, comfort and safety of visitors and locals alike.	Presentation of the town, physically, environmentally and promotionally should be key.	Focus on encouraging non retail and tourism employment opportunities
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
More parking facilities, new parking areas, with a fair charge for the whole county.	No more out of town shops. Encourage locals to shop locally.	Make town a pleasure to visit and walk around. Maintenance of our streets to bring back civic pride, litter free Alnwick with places to stop, sit, smell and see beautiful flowers!
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
A clear shared branding of the town centre which can ably define what it is and can project a shaper vision of where the town is heading.	To use the skill, interests and commitment identified through producing the plan to build on these energies across the town.	To improve the quality of the Town environment. This improved maintenance covering a wide range of issues. Signage, green areas, buildings, maintenance etc. as a basis for economic, social and retail development embracing the town's historic setting and its people.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
The plan must include plans for more social housing.	The plan needs to include ways to increase jobs with transport links.	



Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
More Social Housing for young people	We need to think less about tourism and more about the people of A+D	Some of the money from tourism should go to local people and charities
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
That the plan includes links to local services such as the lack of social housing for local people especially the young.	The plan helps to look at and balance local issues such as youth provision and tourism for example.	That the plan doesn't continue to move with the developers at the forefront and at the expense of the local people.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
I would like to see a re-definition of "affordable housing" in line with the realities of local incomes and provision of housing especially for young people.	I would like to see parts of the town centre pedestrianized and cars removed from the town centre.	I would like to see a clear definition of local council responsibilities (e.g. infrastructure and maintenance) in relation to those of the County Council with a reallocation of funding accordingly.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Don't lose out green spaces – there already too few accessible spaces but they are key to providing bio-diversity, attractive environments, play spaces, community focus, sustainable drainage, et. If the new school is built we could use the old school site to improve and add to our green space.	We need things that keep young people in town and stop people moving away. We need to develop a sense of loyalty and pride. We need to offer training and employment ops, affordable housing, easy commuting opps, and develop entrepreneurial skills.	Governance – look at what decisions could be made and what services could be provided at a local neighbourhood level instead of county. ATC should be more proactive in seeking funding, applying for grants to deliver ideas in the plan.



Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Accessibility for all – including ease of getting into the town centre by car, bus cycle, walk etc. but also highly accessible for those with mobility issues.	Quality of environment. Once people are able to get into town how pleasant an experience will it be? Consider streetscape, landscape, legibility, signage, sustainability and maintenance.	Image and identity of the town as a place to live, visit, shop and enjoy involves marketing, branding, events but also what it looks like at entrances into the town.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
I would like to see affordable housing as part of a strategic plan regarding total housing provision.	I would like to see an emphasis on employment opportunities especially in the new technologies. Technologies, training and education would need to produce a highly qualified and motivated workforce.	Is making Alnwick a better place to live i.e. excellent schools, jobs, houses and leisure and sporting facilities all served by an excellent transport system? To me there is a correlation between people, quality of life and jobs.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
I would like to see Alnwick and Denwick fully prepared for the consequences of climate change, including mainstreaming sustainable design, sustainable lifestyles, low carbon energy and resilience to extreme and unpredictable weather.	I would like Alnwick and Denwick to establish a jointly agreed vision of what the areas should look like in the medium to long term future, focusing on what people value about the area now.	Based on this vision I would like to see greater democratic say in development applications received by the council or developed by Northumberland Estates



Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
I would like to see a better composed and maintained, comprehensive public realm and townscape in Alnwick.	I would like to see the town become more utilised with attractive busy streets and spaces all enhanced by more quality festival and community events.	I would like the town to value and use the quality cultural attractions of the town not just the Castle and Gardens.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Recreation areas for youth within the town environments with a 20mph speed limit throughout town and residential areas.	Environmental disaster of dog mess in ally's ginnels and play areas sorted. Dog wardens should be encouraged and not intimidated by residents in "high" places.	No more supermarkets. Encouragement for high street small shopkeepers to flourish.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
A balanced housing economy that delivers high quality, affordable homes.	To address social exclusion of young adults by investing in employment, training and housing opportunities.	To attract inward investment in employment creation.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Grow the town's population by providing housing and employment.	Facilitate economic investment to create jobs.	Make physical improvements to the town centre.



Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
More affordable housing.	Correct mix of housing to support sustainable communities.	Better use of existing housing stock.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
I would like to see more hi-tech business encouraged to open in Alnwick.	I would like to see sufficient, high quality, affordable housing for current residents and incomers.	I would like to see an improved retail mix in Alnwick so that Alnwick becomes more self-sufficient in terms of what can be purchased locally.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
I would like to see more provision for the elderly e.g., drop in centres and perhaps a bereavement support group.	I would like to see more affordable housing for folk on a smaller budget. It seems a terrible scandal that there are 7 homeless people sleeping rough in the town.	I would like to see better transport facilities both in and around Alnwick and Denwick.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
That the plan enables Alnwick to become a focal point for local people financed by a thriving tourist offer.	That young people wish to stay in the area and can afford to live here.	That Alnwick is seen as a prime visitor attraction.
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
I'd hope that the plan would protect the community spirit that exists in Alnwick.	Quality of life should be the bottom line each time.	The people of Alnwick should get what they want not want what they get.

Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan

Cross Cutting Discussion Forum 24.07.2012



Summary

Introduction

What is a Cross Cutting Discussion Forum?

Who Attended the Workshop?

How did the Discussion Forum work?

Avoiding Consultation Fatigue

Preparing for the Event

Introduction

Plangle Community Planning Services working with Alnwick Town Council, Argyle Planning and supported by Locality held a Cross Cutting Discussion Workshop in July 2012 to help the process of the neighbourhood plan for Alnwick and Denwick move onto its next stage. The session was designed and facilitated by Plangle with the support of members of the Alnwick and Denwick neighbourhood plan steering group and Community staff at Locality. The workshop intended to “widen the net” in terms of discussion around key topics emerging so far in the neighbourhood plan process and intended to give more members of Alnwick and Denwicks community involvement in the plan. A key priority for the workshop was to enable a more strategic set of aims and objectives to be developed, rather than a list of topic based issues that existed in silos. The discussions and group work included in the workshop would help the individual topic based groups looking at topics such as Housing, Environment, Heritage etc. see how their current issues affected other groups issues and to discuss the cross cutting themes running through that work that had been undertaken so far.

What is a Cross Cutting Discussion Forum?

8 subject topic groups had been identified as fundamental to an Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan (ADNP). Work had been undertaken to identify issues that were apparent within these topic areas. Alongside an Alnwick and Denwick wide questionnaire and a number of drop-in events the ADNP working group had collected information that had been identified as issues under the following topic headings.

- Housing
- Environment
- Community Facilities and Education
- Economy and Employment
- Heritage and Culture
- Sport and Recreation
- Transport
- Retail and Leisure

While it was important to recognise that consultation is an on-going process it was also necessary to maintain a level of momentum in producing a plan for Alnwick and Denwick. With this in mind a Cross Cutting Discussion Forum would be an opportunity for topic groups to gather within their chosen interest area and bring together some of the key issues in their topic that had emerged so far. These main issues would then be built upon with a wider community group discussion looking at the What, Why, How, Who and When scenarios around these main issues. The latter part of the workshop would then enable groups to share their scenarios with other topics to see how they worked as an overall plan. The main intentions of the workshop being to:-

- Understand what the main issues were in each topic
- Discuss the What, Where, Why, When and Who? Of each topic area
- Identify issues that could cross over into other topics
- Move forward as one group
- Help inform the next stage in setting strategic objectives for the ADNP

Who Attended the Workshop?

Making sure as many members of a community have been given a chance to get involved in plan making is important to a successful plan. With this in mind the Cross Cutting Discussion Forum held in Alnwick, invited selected members from a broad range of the community to get involved, and included representatives and members from the following types of groups

- ADNP Steering Group Members
- Younger People
- Disabled People
- Older People
- Local Business
- Heritage Groups
- Emergency Services
- Other key departments at Northumberland County Council
- Landlords
- Developers
- Education Establishments
- Environment Groups
- Transport Groups

A list of attendees can be found in Appendix (?)

Such an event would seek representation from these types of people to make the discussion as mixed as possible and to help the discussion take into account all of the different angles neighbourhoods can view planning from.

How did the Discussion Forum work?

The event was held as an evening event and ran from 6.00pm till 9.30pm with breaks for refreshments. *(The event was planned to be a longer and held on a Saturday from 10.30 till*

3.00 but attendance could not be arranged so the programme was condensed into an evening session). A program with explanatory notes can be obtained by contacting chris@plangle.co.uk



A Topic Lead Facilitates a workshop in Alnwick (image www.plangle.co.uk)

Avoiding Consultation Fatigue

ADNP steering groups were conscious they did not want to wind the clock back and revisit issues they had previously discussed so the idea of this workshop was to begin to move onto the next phase in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan. It was not just a process to gather more issues and revisit old ones. *Although sometimes having these cross cutting discussions can pull out new or underlying issues.* The idea was to begin to look more at the issues and begin discussing how we do something about them strategically and objectively using the ADNP as one of the tools to do that.

Preparing for the event

A crucially important “dry run” and question and answers session a week before the main event was held for members of the ADNP steering group who had agreed to facilitate and lead a group discussion at the workshop. The dry run would help iron out any misunderstandings regarding the workshop and be a chance to ask questions before the event. A full detailed program and set of facilitator’s notes was prepared for the dry run that was used as a step by step guide and as a guide on the actual event.



"Touring the Tables – Discussing Issues for Housing" (image www.plangle.co.uk)

Plangle Further Information

Neighbourhoods and communities will all come up against the planning system at some point. Without realising we can often find ourselves talking about planning and the ways in which the built environment we live in affects our day to day lives. We all have an opinion about where we think new houses, supermarkets, schools, libraries, doctors and playparks should be built. We have local knowledge about the history of our neighbourhood, certain communities and cultures in our neighbourhoods or day to day information we gather as we go about our daily lives

The planning system is a constantly changing one and early intervention and involvement from communities helps to realistically shape, design and influence the changes that are happening. Plangle is a community planning service that aims to help communities get involved in the changes going on where we live and help people of all ages and backgrounds understand why, where, when and how changes can affect our neighbourhoods and how we can all use the planning system in a positive way.

We normally react when it's too late to have an influence in planning. Through Plangle's advice, support and guidance communities can get involved in planning at the right time.

Contact Plangle

www.plangle.co.uk

chris@plangle.co.uk

Cross Cutting Discussion Forum – Programme and Information

Introduction

This short information document is designed to explain how a Cross Cutting Discussion Forum would be carried out with key stakeholders and other community members interested in the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan and what such a workshop would aim to achieve and how such an event would be organised and facilitated.

What is a Cross Cutting Discussion Forum?

Within each of the subject topic groups identified as fundamental to an Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan (ADNP), work has been undertaken to identify issues that are apparent within these topic areas. Alongside an Alnwick and Denwick wide questionnaire and a number of drop-in events the ADNP working group have collected information that has been identified as issues under a particular topic. While it is important to recognise that consultation is an on-going process it is also necessary to maintain a level of momentum in producing a plan for Alnwick and Denwick. With this in mind a Cross Cutting Discussion Forum would be an opportunity for topic groups to gather within their chosen interest area and bring together some of the key issues in their topic that they feel may have an impact or cross with other emerging issues in other topic groups and most importantly share these cross cutting issues with all of the topic groups while having the chance to comment on other groups issues. The main intentions being to:-

- Understand what other topic issues are
- Identify issues that crossover into other topics
- Discuss the What, Where, Why, When and Who? Of each topic area
- Move forward as one group
- Help inform the next stage in setting objectives for the ADNP

Who would attend this Discussion Forum?

Making sure as many members of a community have been given a chance to get involved in plan making is important to a successful plan. With this in mind the Cross Cutting Discussion Forum proposed to be held in Alnwick would aim to invite selected members from a broad range of the community to get involved. For example,

- Steering Group Members
- Younger People
- Disabled People
- Older People
- Local Business
- Heritage Groups
- Emergency Services
- Other key departments at Northumberland County Council
- Landlords
- Developers

- Education Establishments
- Environment Groups
- Transport Groups
- Others

Such an event would seek representation from these types of people to make the discussion as mixed as possible and to help the discussion take into account all of the different angles communities view planning from.

How would this Discussion Forum work?

The proposed event will be held on **Tuesday 24th July** and will run from **6.00pm till 9.30pm** with breaks for refreshments. A programme with explanatory notes is provided over the page for further information.

We don't want to wind the clock back and revisit issues we have already discussed

The idea of this discussion forum is to begin to move onto the next phase in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan. It is not just a process to gather more issues and revisit old ones. *Although sometimes having these cross cutting discussions can pull out new or underlying issues.* The idea is to begin to look more at the issues and begin discussing how we do something about them using the ADNP as one of the tools to do that.

Preparing for the event

The idea would be to hold a “dry run” or question and answers session before the main event so those topic leads and others involved in the day feel comfortable working with people at the event and can ask questions about the logistics of the day. Locality would also be present at this pre-event and the main event to answer questions and give advice on how we may deliver some of this event as a group before the day and to help on the actual day of an event.

At the dry run event each topic group would begin to prepare their What Where Why When Who charts before the actual event to make sure only the cross cutting issues are addressed and time is saved at the actual event on the 24th. Both Locality and Plangle will be available to support this part of the “dry run”.

A full detailed program and set of facilitator's notes and delegate's information will also be prepared to use on the day of the event.

Programme

6.00pm – Arrivals, Refreshments and Introductions

“A chance to get a coffee or tea and introduce yourself to a few of the other people attending the event. This may be done formally or informally using a number of different icebreaker style activities, to be discussed.”

6.30 pm – Welcome and Introduction to the event – Why are we here?

“Chris Anderson from plangle would introduce the format of the event, any housekeeping rules and what we want to achieve by the end of the day”

6.40 pm – What, Where, Why, When, Who

“Working in groups and using your activity guide begin to discuss the key or main issues from your topic around the key headings of What, Where, Why, When and Who with the new members of your group to begin to look at how the plan could address some of these key issues. This session would be facilitated by a topic lead perhaps or nominated person and there would be another person to scribe the discussion and make notes of the task. The aim would be to prepare on a large sheet you’re what where why when and who discussion around your topic and be able to have this ready to be available to other groups after the break.

7.40 pm – Break

“During the break each of the topic groups what where why when and who information charts would be displayed around the venue ready for the next session.” This would also be a chance for groups to mix up and discuss issues informally over a sandwich and drink.”

8.00 pm – Information Exchange and Issues Swapping

“The information prepared in the group task during the first session will now be on display around the venue. Topic groups would be asked to visit other topics what where why when who charts displayed around the venue and have an opportunity to raise questions and issues around other topics. Post it notes and comments cards could be attached or left with each of the different topics charts.”

9.00 pm - Question and Answers Session

“A conclusion question and answers session as one whole group would bring the formal part of the event to a close where key questions emerging from the workshop could be shared with all members at the event and recorded.”

9.30 pm - What happens next?

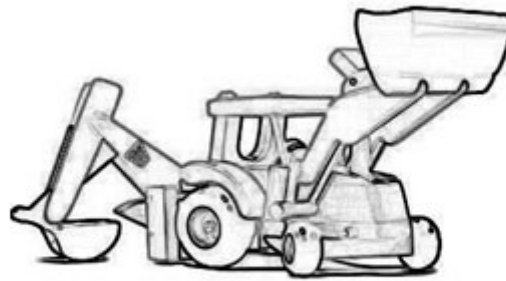
The information prepared and gathered at this event would be written up and shared back amongst all delegates as a small report, information could also be shared electronically on the website.

Attendees for Discussion Forum Tuesday 24th July 2012

NAME	ORGANISATION (if any)	1st PREFERENCE (if stated)	2nd PREFERENCE (if stated)
Andrea Perrett	Local Living	Retail & Tourism	Employment & Economy
Janis Crook	Community Forum	Retail	
Susan Ellis	Community Forum	Retail	
Frances Allsop	Community Forum	Housing	
Victoria Ballon	Community Forum	Environment	Housing
Peter Ballon	Community Forum	Heritage & Culture	Housing
Richard Allsop	Community Forum	Transport	
Paul Leo	NCC	Housing	
Andy Clarke	NCC	Housing	
John Swanson	Developer	Housing	Retail & Tourism
Maria Manion	Community Forum	Retail & Tourism	Heritage & Culture
Jacqui Gibbs	Sure Start	Community Facilities/Ed	Employment & Economy
Lynne Livsey	Consultant	Housing	
Tony French	Resident	Housing	Employment & Economy
Sam French	Resident	Housing	Employment & Economy
Clare Mills	Community Forum		
Hannah Moeini	NCC		
Pennie Perkins	Community Forum	Retail & Tourism	Housing
Tim Harris	Homes for Northumberland	Housing	
Katherine Williams	Community Forum		
Martin Robinson	Aln Valley Railway		
Carlo Biagioni	Chamber of Trade		
Andrew Duff	Resident	Retail & Tourism	
David Farrer	Community Forum		
Bill Grisdale	Councillor		
Martin Harrington	Councillor		
Gordon Castle	Councillor		
Ian McCrae	Gallery Youth	Housing	
Emily Wood	Volunteer		
Caroline Stewart	Local Business Women	Retail & Tourism	
Jean Lovie	Resident		
Jane Young	Local Business Women	Housing	
Paul West		Community	
Terry Gray			
Plus Steering group members			

Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan

Cross Cutting Discussion Forum 24.07.2012



Workshop

What, Why, How and When?

Touring the Tables – Further Comments

Question and Answer Session

Top 3 Priorities for Alnwick and Denwick

What, Why, How and When?

In this part of the workshop the topic lead facilitators played a key part in the discussion. As a facilitator for their topic (Environment, Housing etc.) and before the event they had a good idea of some of the main issues in their particular topic.

In groups, attendees at the workshop would hear a summary or background of the main issues in a particular topic and then as a group discuss the what, why, how and when the plan could begin to address some of these issues.

The findings from this part of the workshop have been recorded and are attached to the overall report under the 8 different topic headings. The content of each of the individual groups has been left as originally presented as some facilitators chose to write up the findings of their workshop in different ways and undertake different sections of the workshop at different times. The key information however is there to see in the relevant tables and presented in the same format. Some groups produced more information on certain parts of the discussion under the various headings.



Discussing the What, Why, How and When for the Plan (Image www.plangle.co.uk)

Touring the Tables

After the groups finished discussing the What, Why, How and When in their respective groups, each person had 5 minutes to spend at each of the other topics to ask questions to the facilitator (topic lead), comment on the issues and add to the information previously discussed by a particular group.



Touring the tables – asking questions and sharing information (image www.plangle.co.uk)

Questions , Answers and Setting Priorities for the Plan

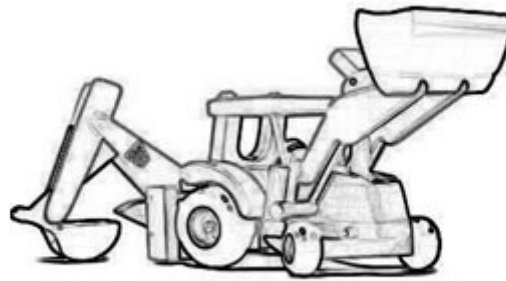
After the touring of the tables a general questions and Answers session occurred to bring the workshop to an end as one whole group. The broad discussion is recorded in the Findings Section of the report. After this Q and A each person who had attended the workshop was asked to record down their top 3 priorities for the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan. This would help the steering group begin to strategically plan some objectives for the plan and begin a move toward a set of preferred options for Alnwick and Denwick around key themes highlighted from the findings of the workshop.



Different generations discuss priorities for Alnwick and Denwicks Future (image www.plangle.co.uk)

Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan

Cross Cutting Discussion Forum 24.07.2012



Workshop

What, Why, How and When?

Touring the Tables – Further Comments

Question and Answer Session

Top 3 Priorities for Alnwick and Denwick

What, Why, How and When?

In this part of the workshop the topic lead facilitators played a key part in the discussion. As a facilitator for their topic (Environment, Housing etc.) and before the event they had a good idea of some of the main issues in their particular topic.

In groups, attendees at the workshop would hear a summary or background of the main issues in a particular topic and then as a group discuss the what, why, how and when the plan could begin to address some of these issues.

The findings from this part of the workshop have been recorded and are attached to the overall report under the 8 different topic headings. The content of each of the individual groups has been left as originally presented as some facilitators chose to write up the findings of their workshop in different ways and undertake different sections of the workshop at different times. The key information however is there to see in the relevant tables and presented in the same format. Some groups produced more information on certain parts of the discussion under the various headings.



Discussing the What, Why, How and When for the Plan (Image www.plangle.co.uk)

Touring the Tables

After the groups finished discussing the What, Why, How and When in their respective groups, each person had 5 minutes to spend at each of the other topics to ask questions to the facilitator (topic lead), comment on the issues and add to the information previously discussed by a particular group.



Touring the tables – asking questions and sharing information (image www.plangle.co.uk)

Questions , Answers and Setting Priorities for the Plan

After the touring of the tables a general questions and Answers session occurred to bring the workshop to an end as one whole group. The broad discussion is recorded in the Findings Section of the report. After this Q and A each person who had attended the workshop was asked to record down their top 3 priorities for the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan. This would help the steering group begin to strategically plan some objectives for the plan and begin a move toward a set of preferred options for Alnwick and Denwick around key themes highlighted from the findings of the workshop.



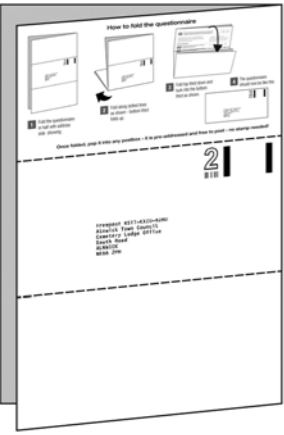
Different generations discuss priorities for Alnwick and Denwicks Future (image www.plangle.co.uk)

4.3 Evidence/Documentation of Stage 2

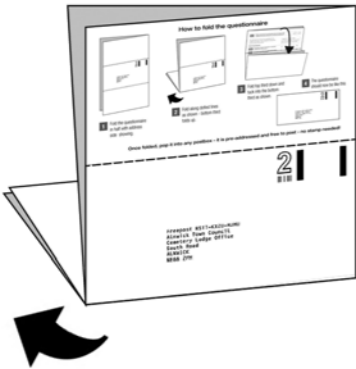
(December 2012 to February 2013)

1	adnp_feb2013_questionnaire_final.pdf	103
2	adnp_feb2013_summary_16pp.pdf	107
3	adnp_feb2013_summary_A4_final.pdf	115
4	adnp_feb2013_A1boards_2.pdf	123
5	Alnwick&Denwick_ConsultationBodies_Final.pdf	134
6	Minutes_communitypartnership_event_December2012.pdf	149
7	Questionnaire results Feb 2013.pdf	151
8	additional comments feb 2013.pdf	169
9	ADNPFlier_21dec2013_marketplace.pdf	191
10	adnp_pressrelease_june2013.pdf	192
11	Attendees_Workshop_18thJune2013.pdf	193
12	Programme for Spatial Strategy Workshop Invitation June 2013.pdf	194

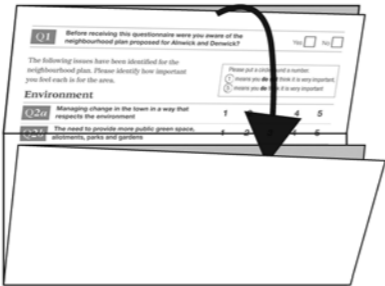
How to fold the questionnaire



1 Fold the questionnaire in half with address side showing.



2 Fold along dotted lines as shown - bottom third folds up.



3 Fold top third down and tuck into the bottom third as shown.

4 The questionnaire should now be like this



Once folded, pop it into any postbox - it is pre-addressed and free to post - no stamp needed!



Freepost RSTT-KXZU-HJHU
Alnwick Town Council
Cemetery Lodge Office
South Road
ALNWICK
NE66 2PH

Alnwick & Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire

As a start we would like your views on the plan aims set out in the accompanying document.
Do the plan aims clearly express what you think should be the aspirations for the neighbourhood plan?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't have an opinion ☐

If no, please explain any changes you would wish to make...

Community Facilities

CYF 1 Information, advice and support

Where the opportunities arise in the town centre, should Information, Advice and Support services be located together?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't have an opinion ☐

CYF 2 Community buildings

The area has a wide range of community buildings, which should be retained and improved to provide better services.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CYF 3 Services for young people

Will the proposed new High School site at Greensfield provide a good location to base provision of youth work and facilities for young people?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't have an opinion ☐

CYF 4 Youth shelter

Should an area within the town be identified and developed to provide a youth shelter (to include seating, lighting and open wifi access)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't have an opinion ☐

CYF 5 Services for older people

Is the extent and range of services provided for older people adequate for the next 10 to 15 years?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't have an opinion ☐

CYF 6 Public toilets

Should the plan provide for improved and fully accessible public toilet facilities?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't have an opinion ☐

CYF 7 Community communication and awareness

Communication methods should be improved by developing a local information website for Alnwick alongside other forms of communication.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Economy & Employment

EMP 1 The level of economic growth

The plan should support greater economic growth than we have seen in recent times, but at a sustainable level.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

EMP 2 The location of employment generating development eg offices, warehouses and industry

Should the Plan (tick one box only)

☐ Provide employment land principally east of the A1 near to existing employment sites such as the Lionheart Estate?

or ☐ Provide employment land south of the town at Greensfield?

or ☐ In neither location?

or ☐ In both locations?

EMP 3 Existing employment sites eg offices, warehouses and industry

Should the Plan (tick one box only)

☐ Seek to retain existing employment sites for office, industrial, and storage uses?

or ☐ Allow these sites to have wider uses, providing they lead to the retention /creation of employment and investment in the fabric and infrastructure of these areas?

EMP 4 South Road

South Road should be identified as an area for new commercial development with improved linkages between the town centre and Willowburn.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

EMP 5 Employment of young people

Should the Plan (tick all that apply)

- ☐ Have a positive policy of supporting development which provides jobs for young people?
- ☐ Encourage the use of local labour and training schemes within new developments?
- ☐ Encourage the provision of facilities for further education, training and apprenticeships?

Education

ED 1 New schools

Do you think the site identified at Greensfield for the development of a new High School should also be considered for an all age education village involving relocated middle schools?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't have an opinion ☐

ED 2 Future use of vacated school sites

What would you like to see the vacated school sites used for? (tick all that apply)

- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Sport and recreation facilities
- ☐ Community facilities
- ☐ Business and employment generating uses
- ☐ Maintained as green space
- ☐ A mixture of these uses

ED 3 Dual use of facilities

The plan should require new school buildings and the proposed outdoor sports complex at Greensfield to be operated on a dual use basis to the benefit of both schools and community.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ED 4 Other educational facilities

The plan should promote the retention of facilities and services supporting statutory education, special needs education and lifelong learning and encourage development required to sustain these services.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Environment

ENV 1 Dog-fouling and litter

Would you support the provision of appropriately designed bins in areas where there is a problem with dog-fouling and litter?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't have an opinion ☐

ENV 2 Recycling

Would you support more town centre sites for recycling glass, textiles and cartons to help improve recycling rates?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't have an opinion ☐

ENV 3 Energy efficiency

Should the neighbourhood plan promote more energy efficient homes?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't have an opinion ☐

ENV 4 Renewable energy

Should the plan encourage local homes and businesses to generate their own energy from renewable sources?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't have an opinion ☐

ENV 5 Trees in the town

A The plan should protect trees in the town centre and those lining approach roads.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B Would you support a requirement that at least 50% of trees planted in publicly accessible green spaces should be fruit trees?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't have an opinion ☐

TRS 3 Public transport

The Alnwick bus station should be developed as a modern, high quality transport hub.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TRS 4 Transport links and accessibility

Better links with Alnmouth Station should be developed to improve longer distance travel options for business and leisure journeys.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TRS 5 Maintenance and upkeep

Repairing the surfaces of footpaths should be given priority over the improvement of road surfaces for vehicles, except where pedestrians cross the road or the quality of the surface represents a risk to cyclists.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TRS 6 Traffic management

Vehicle speeds should be restricted to a maximum of 20mph in the residential areas of Alnwick town. 30mph may be permitted along access routes where conditions make this a safe maximum speed.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TRS 7 More sustainable transport

Within the plan, walking, cycling, public transport and the movement of goods and services should be prioritised over private car travel to help deliver a more sustainable transport network.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Any other comments:

RETURNING THE QUESTIONNAIRE

It is important that we get your views. Please return this questionnaire by Monday 18th February 2013.

To return your completed form either: Drop it off at one of the collection points in the area. These are at Alnwick Library, Alnwick Town Council's office at Alnwick Cemetery, Northumberland County Council's information centre at Greenwell Lane, the Post Office on Market Street and Willowburn Leisure Centre.

Post it back - no stamp is required (see back page for details). Or complete the questionnaire online by visiting www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk

SPR 4 Allotments

How do you think the amount of allocated space for allotments should change over the plan period to 2025?

(tick **one** box only)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep the same amount of allotment space as now
<input type="checkbox"/>	A small increase in the amount of space allocated, in line with any future population growth
<input type="checkbox"/>	A large increase in the amount of space allocated

Tourism

TOU 1 Supporting tourism

The plan should support Alnwick's role as a viable and competitive tourism destination.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOU 2 Seasonality

The plan should support developments that improve facilities and prospects for promoting year round visitor activity.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOU 3 Locating tourism developments

Development of new visitor accommodation and tourism - related facilities should be supported in locations where it can complement other tourist businesses and services and enhance Alnwick's overall visitor appeal.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOU 4 Access for all

Alnwick needs access improvements in order to be a welcoming and delightful place for residents and visitors alike, including those with restricted mobility.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOU 5 Signage and interpretation

Improved signposting and interpretation is necessary to help visitors find their way and make the most of all Alnwick has to offer.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOU 6 Coach tours

Coach parking, drop-off and pick-up provision should be improved to ensure that Alnwick is made attractive for short stay town centre related coach operators and their passengers.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Transport

TRS 1 Pedestrian links

A comprehensive network of attractive, well-maintained footpaths is required to link the residential, educational, commercial and industrial areas of Alnwick town and its central area.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TRS 2 Cycle links

A well maintained, safe and signed cycle route network, mainly on existing streets, would benefit Alnwick town and its links to the surrounding villages.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ENV 6 Nature conservation

Should the plan identify local nature reserves in areas of nature conservation interest?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't have an opinion ☐

Heritage & Culture

HC 1 Alnwick conservation area

The boundaries of Alnwick Conservation Area should be reviewed with a view to its extension.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

HC 2 Conservation in Denwick

Denwick village should be considered for designation as a conservation area.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

HC 3 Heritage buildings

The plan should propose a locally determined list of lesser heritage buildings.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

HC 4 Control of design

The plan should include design policies and promote design guides to protect the character of our historic buildings and areas.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

HC 5 Planning control

The plan should explore the need for additional planning controls to prevent small scale damage to the character of our historic buildings and townscapes.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

HC 6 Public space

The plan should encourage the better management and maintenance of Alnwick Conservation Area's public spaces and floorscapes.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

HC 7 Signage and street furniture

The plan should encourage the removal of unnecessary signs and other street furniture in the town centre.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

HC 8 Culture

A The plan should ensure that the existing buildings and organisations supporting cultural activities have a viable future.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B The plan should identify any cultural needs currently not met and determine what viable provision should be made to meet those needs.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Housing

HSG 1 Quantity of housing

Do you agree that the plan should provide about 50 new dwellings per year up to 2025 - i.e. a total of about 700 new dwellings?

(tick **one** box only)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - that sounds about right
<input type="checkbox"/>	No - it's too many
<input type="checkbox"/>	No - it's too few
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't have an opinion

HSG 2 Location of housing

A Do you agree we should continue to prioritise previously developed land for housing?

Yes No Don't have an opinion

B Do you agree we should also prioritise other available and developable sites for housing not in use as parks and gardens - for example school sites once vacated?

Yes No Don't have an opinion

C Additionally would you support further housing development:- (tick one box only)

- South of the town at Greensfield?
- East of Allernburn Lea and Westacres?
- In both locations?
- In neither location?

HSG 3 Housing choice

The plan should promote housing choice by encouraging a range of size, type and tenure of dwellings.

Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Strongly Disagree

HSG 4 Affordable housing

Do you support the following to help deliver affordable housing: (tick all that apply)

- A requirement for sites larger than 10 dwellings to provide affordable housing as part of the development?
- A requirement that at least 35% of the total dwellings on larger sites are affordable homes?
- A tariff system so that the developer of smaller housing developments (including individual houses) contributes funds towards the provision of affordable housing?

HSG 5 Housing design

Do you think the Plan should: (tick all that apply)

- Introduce a strong policy setting out principles of good sustainable design?
- Make it a requirement that all new housing development should be built to a recognised high standard of design such as Building for Life and The Code for Sustainable Homes?

HSG 6 Existing stock

The Plan should encourage the refurbishment of vacant housing, in particular vacant dwellings over shops in the town centre.

Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Town Centre & Retail

TCR 1 The mix of shops, services and leisure facilities

What is your opinion about the present mix of shops, services and leisure facilities serving Alnwick?

	Need Less	About Right	Need More
Retail shops			
Services (banks, solicitors, travel agents, etc)			
Cafés/bars/restaurants			
Takeaways			
Other leisure (gyms, entertainment, etc)			

TCR 2 Independent retail shops

Alnwick's independent retail shops are part of the town's distinctive character, and the plan should actively encourage the independent retail sector.

Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Strongly Disagree

TCR 3 Choice of shops

There is not enough choice of shops. Alnwick needs more retail shops offering clothing, electrical goods, home interiors, etc

Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Strongly Disagree

TCR 4 Extending town centre business beyond 9.00-5.00

A wider range of businesses which will develop the evening economy of the town centre should be encouraged.

Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree

TCR 5 The Market Place

It has been agreed to implement a restricted parking zone in the market place to provide 11 short stay car parking spaces, a disabled parking space and 3 loading/unloading bays. The car parking spaces will not be available on days when markets and events are taking place.

Which statement best describes your views on this issue?

- This scheme seems sensible and time should be given to see how it works
- I would have preferred a scheme with more car parking spaces
- I would have preferred to see no car parking and with only loading & unloading permitted
- Other - Please specify

TCR 6 Future retail growth

Does Alnwick need more retail space (including out of town centre) to serve a growing population, to compete with other retail centres, to attract visitors and to create jobs? (tick one box only)

- No more retail space
- In town centre only
- Out of town centre only
- Both town centre & out of town centre
- No opinion

TCR 7 Out of town centre retail development

Out of town centre retail development should be controlled so as not to undermine established town centre businesses.

Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree

TCR 8 Movement of pedestrians in the town centre

Alnwick needs to give improved priority to pedestrians within the town centre in terms of increased pavement space, improved surfaces, better street signage, etc.

Which of the following would you support: (tick any that apply)

- Greater pedestrian priority in Narrowgate
- Greater pedestrian priority in Bondgate Within
- Retaining but improving the surface to the cobbles
- Replacing the cobbles in an alternative surface material in keeping with the historic character of Market Street and Bondgate
- Repaving lanes and alleyways connecting to the town centre using materials in keeping with the historic character of the town centre.
- Other - Please specify

Sport & Recreation

SPR 1 Open space

Do you support the plan committing to increase the amount of publicly accessible green space provided (eg parks and gardens) to achieve the standards set by the County Council for the rest of Northumberland?

Yes No Don't have an opinion

SPR 2 Outdoor sport

Do you think that improving the outdoor sport playing pitches in Alnwick is a priority for the plan.

Yes No Don't have an opinion

SPR 3 Children's play

The provision and upgrading of children's play facilities should be prioritised to the areas in greatest need, in particular south Alnwick.

Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Options For The Future

The ADNP is very much **your** plan for **your** local neighbourhood area.

However, for the plan to have full weight, it is important that we work within broad national planning policies and Northumberland Core Strategy policies.

We have therefore been working with the County Council exploring and testing our ideas with them.

Before we draft the plan itself it is important we get your views on the options we have identified - so this booklet gives you a flavour of where we are with each topic and asks a number of questions.

The answers will help us move the plan forward.

If you feel the questions do not cover all the areas that you want to comment on, please use the space at the end of the questionnaire to tell us what you think.

This booklet is only a summary of all the work over the last year and we have focussed the questions on the key areas we need your views on.

The detailed papers on each topic are all available on the website at:
www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk

Your views on any aspect of those papers would be welcome and can be sent in by email, post or by using the website 'Contact Us' page.

December 2012

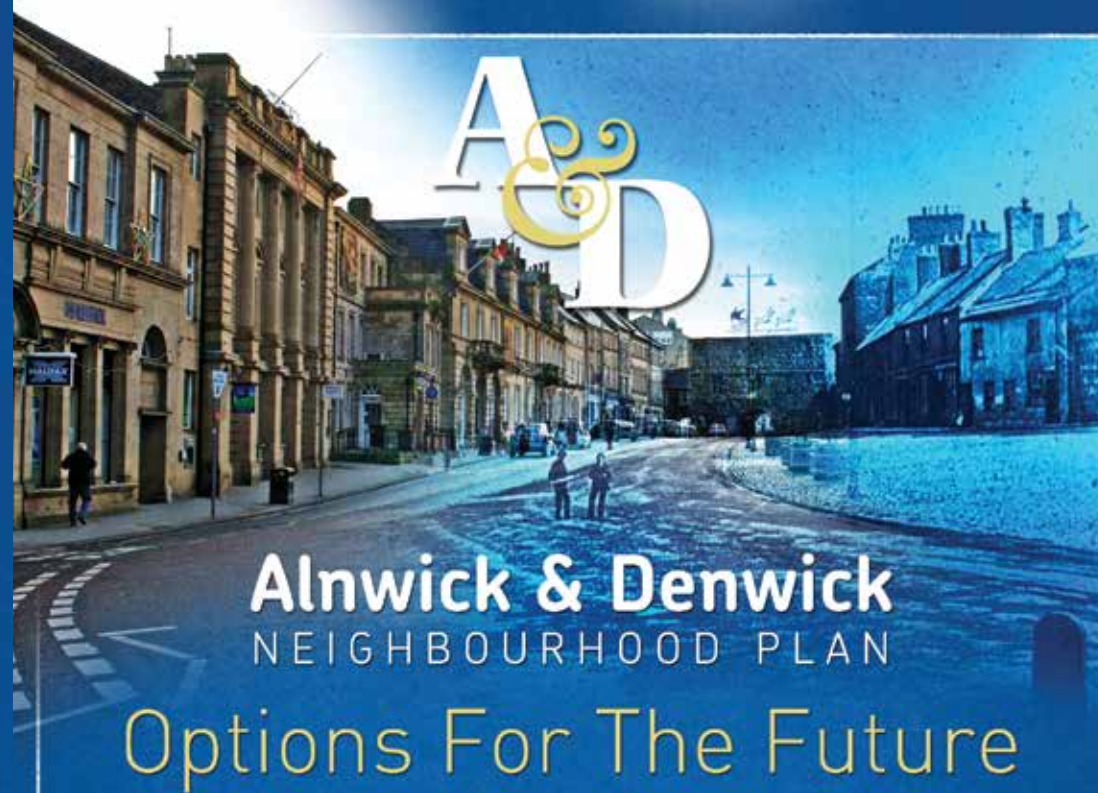
A large print version of this document is available on request.



Alnwick & Denwick NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

For further information contact: Bill Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk,
Alnwick Town Council, Cemetery Lodge Office, South Road, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 2PH
Telephone 07971 810267 or email: bill.batey@btconnect.com

www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk



The Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan (ADNP) is your plan for your neighbourhood.

It is a new type of plan prepared under the Localism Act where the local community is in 'the driving seat'. Alnwick Town Council, in consultation with Denwick Parish Council, is preparing the plan but an essential part of the process is that you, as local residents and people who use the town, are fully engaged.

Last December we published a questionnaire, asking your views on the main issues facing the area. Since then we have been investigating the issues you helped identify, developing aims for the plan and looking at options across a range of topic areas.

www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk

The plan aims are:

1 Economy and Employment

To support, strengthen and diversify Alnwick as the principal employment and service centre for the wider area.

2 Retail and Tourism

To maintain and develop a comprehensive mix of retail and tourism facilities which provide a locally distinctive shopper and visitor experience whilst meeting local needs.

3 Community, Leisure and Education Facilities

To provide high quality, accessible and affordable community, leisure and education facilities to meet the needs of all parts of the local community.

4 Transport

To improve the facilities for the movement of people, goods and services within Alnwick and Denwick. To enhance the pedestrian experience and to improve the management of vehicle access throughout the plan area.

5 Environment

To create a more sustainable neighbourhood that respects and enhances the special character of the area.

To increase the amount of public open space that is readily accessible to all.

6 Heritage and Culture

To protect and enhance the special architectural and historic character of Alnwick as a unique ducal township and promote its key role in supporting the local economy and in defining local identity.

To sustain and enrich the cultural life of Alnwick.

7 Housing

To provide a sufficient quantity and range of good quality housing, appropriate to meet local needs and the development of the town as a sustainable service centre.

8 Sport and Recreation

To improve the provision of good quality, accessible and affordable sports and recreation facilities.

Community Facilities

Alnwick already has a diverse range of activities and support services which are provided by a large number of organisations in the Alnwick & Denwick areas.

The objective for the Neighbourhood Plan is that:

By 2025 the people of Alnwick and Denwick will have access to high quality community facilities that are fit for purpose and have the capacity required to maintain and improve a vibrant, inclusive and healthy society.

The plan aims to achieve this by supporting the development of community activity, ensuring community buildings meet future demands by looking at better use of redundant / underused buildings to provide some of these facilities and improved communication between individuals, businesses and groups.

In order to be successful the plan needs to support the people of Alnwick and Denwick by keeping them informed and encouraging them to get involved in decision making.

Information, advice & support

Issue: Services are based in a number of different locations within Alnwick. There is potential to benefit from joined up working and easier access to sites by integrating services. Some of the buildings used to house these services are below the standard that would be expected for a public building.

Option: The plan needs to ensure we provide the services that people need, in accessible locations and in fit-for-purpose buildings.

Community buildings

Issue: The quality of some community buildings is poor in terms of physical accessibility, energy efficiency, comfort and general repair and maintenance.

Option: The plan should support the improvement of community buildings and

health, wellbeing and quality of life for all.

Option example: Design changes in transport provision so that they contribute to an improvement of the streetscape that reconciles the need for up-to-date facilities with a well conserved town environment.

- **Issue:** Keeping transport infrastructure in a safe and attractive condition.

Option principle: Prepare and implement a five-year strategic plan for the repair of footpaths and pedestrian areas, road crossings and markings, eliminating the many safety hazards that currently exist for pedestrians.

- **Issue:** Managing traffic for the benefit of all, with priority for pedestrians.

Option principle: Review the traffic systems and signing that bring people into the town; devise unobtrusive systems that give real meaning to the 'shared space' concept throughout the town and its approaches.

Option example: Restrict vehicle speeds to a maximum of 20mph in the residential areas of Alnwick town.

- **Issue:** Providing parking and managing and preventing the abuse of parking facilities.

Option principle: Encourage considerate parking to protect green verges, keep access to premises clear and drop kerbs free. Enforce regulations and eliminate abuse throughout the plan area.

Option example: Investigate the commercial provision of an aesthetically acceptable decked or multi-storey car park.

- **Issue:** Using the planning process to help improve transport and travel now and in future.

Option principle: Establish a hierarchy of travel options from walking (most in need of encouragement and improved facilities) through cycling, public transport and freight to private car travel that would help deliver more sustainable transport across the plan area.

Clearly, a key constraint that will determine the practicality and implementation of the options eventually agreed for inclusion in the plan will be the availability of funding. However, some of the options identified do not require new funding but do require a more determined application and enforcement of existing regulations.

For example, the lack of enforcement of existing parking regulations in the plan area has contributed not only to traffic congestion but also to unnecessary safety hazards for pedestrians and access problems for those with impaired mobility.

The evidence available on traffic in Alnwick is now outdated and is based on national growth forecasts that have not materialised. The Department for Transport statistics show that national traffic levels have remained essentially the same over the last decade but the situation locally might usefully be explored. Similarly, the widely differing views on the adequacy of parking provision should be evidenced by objective measures.

The interaction of transport and travel with other aspects of life in the plan area is certain to require compromises to be reached if transport is to fulfil its role of facilitating the cohesion, health and well-being of the community.

Transport



In working towards the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, it is essential that we have clear objectives for transport to deliver the overall plan aim for transport.

These are:

- To improve access to homes, work and facilities for people and goods
- To enhance the viability and vitality of Alnwick town centre for residents and visitors
- To link residential, commercial, recreational and functional parts of the plan area
- To improve conditions for walking, cycling, wheelchair and buggy users
- To improve the provision of public transport
- To increase pedestrian priority and reduce car dependence
- To contribute to the development of a sustainable future

The transport issues of concern and options for their resolution are:

- **Issue:** Providing safe and attractive opportunities for all to walk within the limit of their ability.
Option principle: Develop a comprehensive network of attractive, well-maintained footpaths to link the residential, educational, commercial and industrial areas of Alnwick town and its central area.
Option example: Develop a sensitive pedestrian priority scheme within the town centre.
- **Issue:** Providing for and promoting cycling as a useful and practical way of getting about the plan area.
Option Principle: Develop a well

maintained, safe and signed cycle route network, mainly on existing streets, within Alnwick town and linking to surrounding villages.

- **Issue:** Improving the provision for public buses, community transport, private hire coaches and similar vehicles.
Option principle: Develop the Alnwick Bus Station as a modern, high quality transport hub serving the plan area.
Option example: Improve private hire bus and coach access and drop off/pick up and layover/parking provision.
- **Issue:** Supporting access, delivery and distribution of goods and services.
Option principle: Progressively improve traffic management schemes for necessary delivery and maintenance vehicles in a way that does not result in pavements being obstructed or damaged.
- **Issue:** Improving the functionality, viability and vitality of the Market Place.
Option principle: Recognise that market activity and community benefit require vehicles to be excluded from the Market Place other than at prescribed times and for prescribed purposes.
- **Issue:** Seeking to improve sustainable links to the world around Alnwick and Denwick.
Option principle: Develop better links with Alnmouth Station to improve longer distance travel options for business and leisure journeys.
- **Issue:** Enhancing the environment to improve the quality of life for all.
Option principle: Promote transport provision that generally enhances the

ensure capacity will meet future demand. There is also potential to use redundant buildings to provide facilities.

Services for young people

Issue: A lack of facilities for young people in Alnwick leading to problems at hotspots such as the bus station. Alnwick offers a range of targeted youth provision, including, advice and information, drop in sessions, supported housing and floating support, development work and group work.

Option: We need to continue and improve the provision of youth work and provision of facilities for young people.

Option: The Plan should identify a location for the provision of facilities for young people to get together without causing concern for residents and visitors. Facilities could include seating, shelter, lighting and open wifi access.

Services for older people

Issue: A diverse range of activities and support services to the elderly are provided by a large number of organisations in the Alnwick & Denwick areas.

Option: The plan needs to support the continued provision of facilities for older people.

Public toilets

Issue: Public toilets have been highlighted as being of very poor quality. The lack of public toilets near to the bus station is an issue for people arriving / departing Alnwick by bus.

Option: The plan should propose improved provision and quality of toilet facilities for public use.

Community communication & awareness

Issue: Issues were raised at the community consultation events that it was not easy to find out what is going on in Alnwick and surrounding areas.

Option: We need to improve communication to ensure individuals, businesses and groups have a better understanding of what is

happening in the area for example by setting up a community information website.

Economy & Employment

Planning for sustainable growth in Alnwick as a main service centre is critical to wider issues such as retaining an active working population and young people and attracting new investment.



The plan will need to provide for a wider range of economic activity than the traditional sectors of the past, and will need to be responsive to change. Tourism, retailing and the service sector will continue to be an important component of the town's economy.

Objectives for the plan

- to act as a main service centre to support the wider rural hinterland and economy
- to offer a range of employment opportunities to assist in retaining a young and vibrant population and to create wealth within the town
- to meet the needs of new investment and new and existing businesses within the town
- to assist and enable a flexible approach to growth and diversification of the local economy
- to meet the above objectives in a sustainable and environmentally sensitive way
- to provide an integrated approach to economic development with other key topic areas of housing, retailing, infrastructure and education

The level of economic growth

Potentially the town could plan to encourage a higher level of growth with the objective of attracting new investment and employment.

That would create greater opportunity to attract and retain young people and to retain a higher proportion of economically active people.

The key options are whether the town should plan to constrain the level of economic growth, retain growth at historic levels or actively promote growth at a higher but sustainable level. The direction of economic policy at a National and County level is to promote growth, and this view is also reflected in the initial public consultation responses to the Alnwick & Denwick Plan.

The extent and choice of land to be allocated for economic development use for Alnwick is therefore likely to be within the range of an additional 10 to 15 hectares in the period to 2025.

The location of development

Land is required in locations which are both relatively easy and cost effective to develop and attractive to employers. This, along with the sensitivity of the landscape, limits the choice of locations for new employment areas in Alnwick, to the south side of the town.

The principal opportunities for development are either land east of the A1 near to existing employment sites or south of the town at Greensfield or both.

Existing employment sites

The quality of existing employment sites varies and there is a need to encourage new investment to maintain their long term future, requiring greater flexibility and adaptability.

The options for the plan are either to restrict the use of employment sites strictly to office, industrial or storage use or allow a wider range of uses providing they lead to retention or creation of employment and reinvestment in the fabric and infrastructure of the area.

The town centre and the economy

Alnwick Town Centre provides the focus for services, shopping, eating-out and leisure employment. The centre's mix of

traditional and modern businesses is critical to maintaining distinctiveness and viability. However the capacity for the centre to provide for new employment opportunities is relatively limited. Consideration could be given to encouraging a wider range of economic and employment uses in the centre rather than predominantly shops. This could have benefits such as stimulating a more vibrant evening economy or new services.

Given the town centre's physical constraints to expansion, it is important to identify ways in which it will compete to attract new investment in the future.

Tourism and the economy

It is likely that demands for tourism will continue to grow within the town which the plan could support. However it is equally important that tourism is not promoted to such an extent that we become over-reliant on this one sector for economic growth. A balance is needed which protects the most sensitive environments, but allows tourism developments within and adjacent to the town.

Employment of young people

Retaining and attracting young people requires action across a range of issues and providing training and appropriate employment opportunities is important.

The plan should support development that is beneficial to attracting and retaining young people, uses local labour and offers training and apprenticeship schemes.

Education

Access to first class educational facilities is the aspiration of every community and is essential to support future development in the town.

Some of the issues facing education are beyond the scope of the plan. What is in scope are the implications of choices made on the



The economic impact of tourism applies not only to businesses directly serving visitors, but also to the local supply chain and secondary economic impacts for example helping to support a wider range of shops, cafes, theatre, social facilities and services than might otherwise be sustainable for a town of this size.

The plan should support Alnwick's role as a viable and competitive tourism destination.

Tackling seasonality

Expanding capacity without addressing the seasonality issue will not help overall sustainability of the tourism sector: put simply, the short season makes it harder to achieve break-even and the generation of sufficient revenue to re-invest in improvements to facilities, quality of service etc.

Initiatives to extend the length of the tourism season should be promoted in the plan where it can be achieved with no environmental or land use impact upon the town.

Locations for tourism development

Tourism development, both attractions and accommodation, should be encouraged to be located within or adjacent to Alnwick, as one of the county's recognised service centres, where it can complement other tourist businesses and services and enhance Alnwick's overall visitor appeal.

Future tourism developments should be assessed in terms of:

- Quality of design and fitness for purpose
- Contribution to the overall attractiveness of Alnwick as a tourism destination
- Ease of access to other visitor facilities and services in the town
- Contribution to extending the season
- Protecting the town's most sensitive environments

Access for all

Catering for the needs of visitors with mobility restrictions applies to a wide cross-section of society.

Addressing accessibility will shape Alnwick's long-term reputation and economic benefits derived from tourism. It will also play a big part in making the town more attractive to live and work in.

The plan should promote access improvements in order to be a welcoming and delightful place for all, including visitors with restricted mobility.

Signposting and interpretation

Visitors and local people need to be able to navigate their way around the town, find places of interest, car parks and other facilities. Linked to this is a desire to strengthen local links between retail and leisure facilities and to ensure that the Castle and Gardens connects strongly with the core of the town.

Interpretation of the historical and architectural features of the town is also desirable in helping to orientate visitors and enhance their enjoyment. Achieving this would also benefit local people and make moving around the town a more pleasurable experience.

Coach tours

At present Alnwick does not appear to be making the most of opportunities presented by the coach tour market mainly because of the poor coach parking facilities within the town centre.

Coach parking, drop-off and pick-up provision should be improved to ensure that Alnwick is made attractive for short stay town centre related coach operators and their passengers.



only one or two pieces of equipment and need to be replaced or upgraded.

Alnwick and Denwick are well below the national and proposed county standards for community open space, in particular parks and gardens, natural & semi-natural green space and amenity green space. As an example, the proposed county standard for parks and gardens is to have at least 2.14 hectares per 1,000 population; in Alnwick and Denwick the figure is only 0.33 hectares per 1,000 population. On the edge of the town is Hulne Park which is open to the public for walking, on many days of the year without charge. Both Hulne Park and The Pastures make significant contributions to the recreation offer and green infrastructure in Alnwick & Denwick, but are not freely available all the time. The plan could look to create more publicly accessible green space in the area.

There are 11 allotment sites in the plan area, these are provided by the Town Council and Northumberland Estates. Whilst the overall space allocated for allotments is above the county average, there are waiting lists and current turnover of allotments is low. Some allotments are badly maintained and of poor quality. We want to hear your views about the future need for allotments.

Tourism

Tourism has been important to Alnwick for a very long time. Alnwick Castle has been a high profile visitor attraction, and in recent years has expanded its opening hours, activities and visitor facilities. The success of The Alnwick Garden has increased the visitor numbers to Alnwick, putting the town on the map nationally as a tourism destination and stimulating the local economy.

Market context

The growth of tourism in and around Alnwick reflects demand from holidaymakers, packaged travel provided by coach and tour operators, business travel and visiting friends and relatives.

Tourism marketing bodies plan promotions in terms of target market segments and the main targets identified appear to require an emphasis on quality of product and service, environment and access to heritage and countryside.

Alnwick appears to have many of the relevant attractions, amenities and visitor-related services needed to function as an attractive and sustainable visitor destination, but has under-utilised off-peak capacity, and needs to address quality and accessibility if it is to realise its full potential.

Proposed tourism objectives:

- To establish Alnwick as a high quality and accessible year-round tourism destination
- To improve the range and quality of accommodation and other visitor-related services
- To encourage investment that will enhance the appeal of visitor attractions and activities
- To encourage visitors to spend more time in Alnwick Town Centre
- To encourage more visitors to walk, cycle and use public transport

Tourism in the economy

The thrust of National and County policy is to encourage tourism. The issue is particularly relevant for Alnwick as a key tourist destination in North Northumberland and it is likely that demands for tourism will continue to grow within the town.

However, it is equally important that tourism is not promoted to an extent that has negative effects due to over-reliance on one sector for economic growth, or that it drives out other sectors which contribute to the vitality of Alnwick as a market town and service sector.



key matters of educational change in the town, on the future use of vacated school sites and on the dual use of new school and sports facilities at Greensfield.

The education objective of the plan is: To ensure that development taking place in the town is supported by sufficient quantity of school places and a high quality of education provision.

Ensuring quality in education provision to support future development.

The quality of schools provision is a key consideration, not just for residents, but also for families considering a move and employers looking to establish or relocate a business. If Alnwick's population is to grow then schools must have the capacity to accept increased numbers and meet rising parental expectations.

All Alnwick schools, other than the recently refurbished St Paul's, suffer from serious problems linked to dilapidation of buildings, which are not fit for purpose and/or are in unsuitable locations creating problems of traffic congestion etc. The Duchess's Community High School, located on 2 separate sites, is to be replaced by a new school in recognition of its extreme unsuitability and dilapidation. It has embarked on a process of converting to academy status along with its federated schools.

It is intended that the new school will be sited on land at Greensfield, west of the Alnwick Cricket Club. Although funding appears to be sufficient for only a high school replacement, there have been calls for a single all age learning facility on this site, comprising at least the additional middle school components.

This would have the advantage of concentrating education provision on the southern edge of town where traffic can be more easily accommodated but the downside of concentrating everything there is that for pupils on the north of the town it makes travelling to school by sustainable means,

difficult. The plan needs to come to a view on whether the new site should be an all age education campus or not.

The future of school sites

Northumberland County Council owns the main High School site and the Lindisfarne Middle School site. These two sites together with the land at the Dukes School, owned by Northumberland Estates and the Bailiffgate Annexe buildings, present significant opportunities for re-use and redevelopment to the benefit of the town.

The sites could be developed for a variety of uses. The housing section of the plan suggests some of the school sites being used for housing but other uses including community services, business, leisure developments etc are all possibilities. However the school sites are currently composed of buildings and a substantial element of greenspace. Given the lack of publically accessible greenspace in the town a substantial part of these sites should be retained as public open space.

Dual use of facilities

Plans for providing a mixed use outdoor sports facility for Alnwick sporting clubs are being developed very close to the new school site. At the same time the existing schools currently provide venues for various community activities after school.

The Greensfield sports complex will initially provide facilities for football, tennis and hockey. It makes sense to capitalise on this proximity by allowing school students to use the facilities rather than duplicating provision and thereby share the burden of maintenance between community and school. Similarly, internal space at the new school should be offered to the community outside of school hours. The Neighbourhood Plan needs to encourage this dual use.



Other educational facilities

Education needs of the community don't start and end with education for the 5-18 age group. Nurseries and after-school care for younger children, youth clubs and facilities, special needs education facilities and adult education services are all present in the town.

The future of all these education-related facilities are vital in supporting development in Alnwick and Denwick and facilitating life-long learning and the plan should have a role to play in promoting their retention.

Environment



This section looks at improving the pleasure we take in our environment, reducing our environmental impact, increasing biodiversity and making us more resilient to increasing fuel prices and climate change.

Dog-fouling, litter and recycling

Dog fouling and littering were the top reported environmental issues in the Alnwick and Denwick community consultation last year. Contact with dog waste can cause toxocarasis, resulting in blindness. Research by Keep Britain Tidy suggests that more bins in the right places help tackle littering and dog fouling.

We recycle 40% of waste in Northumberland, but this will not increase much further unless we make it easier to recycle materials like glass, cartons and textiles. There are sites at Lionheart Business Park, Greenwell Lane car park, and less well-used sites at Willowburn Sports Centre and the Co-op petrol station, but no supermarkets or other car parks provide recycling.

Warm homes and renewable energy

Carbon emissions from our homes are 23% higher in Northumberland than elsewhere in England and Wales. This is largely due to the

number of older solid wall properties. A 2009 study found that 18% of Alnwick households lived in fuel poverty, whilst in Denwick the figure may be around 45%. These numbers will have increased with rising energy prices, and can be expected to increase further. The plan could make homes more energy-efficient through incentives, publicity, supporting schemes or through the planning system.

Currently about 1% of Alnwick and Denwick's energy use comes from local renewable sources, such as solar panels, wood burners and heat pumps. Planning permission is often required to install solar panels in conservation areas. The plan could come up with measures to encourage householders and businesses to adopt renewable energy.

Trees and nature reserves

Alnwick and Denwick have many attractive and historic trees along routes into the town and in the town centre which should be protected and preserved. Very few of our publicly accessible trees produce edible fruit. Predicted doubling of oil prices in 10 years and lifestyle changes in the developing world will make expensive food even more costly. The North-East is a net importer of fresh fruit, so more fruit trees in publicly-accessible space will help protect communities from rising prices. Grants for trees are available from many organisations, and tree planting has been carried out by volunteers from environmental groups, Alnwick Lions, Girl Guides and town councillors.

We also have very few local nature reserves. There are small reserves at Craster, Whittingham and Littlehoughton, but the total area falls far short of the government agency Natural England's standard, and there are no nature reserves at all in Alnwick or Denwick. To meet the standard, we need to set



Town Centre and by concentrating the development of 'out of town centre' retail in trade outlets.

- to pursue the above objectives in a way which supports the plan's aims in respect of employment, housing, transport, tourism, heritage and community facilities.

Options

In summary, some of the key considerations are:

- a **Retail Development Master Plan** to control retail development within the Town Centre and the growth of out of the town centre outlets, and
- a desired target within such a plan for the ratio between retail shops and other commercial and leisure premises within the Town Centre
- policies to support and nurture the town's independent retailers
- the need for more prestige high street chains in Alnwick
- an integrated plan for the development of the Market Place, the Northumberland Hall, and the historic Town Centre
- proposals for greater pedestrian priority in the Town Centre
- proposals to address poor disabled access around the Town Centre
- a plan to link Alnwick's principal retail 'hubs' in the marketing and promotion of the town, or
- focus marketing and promotion only on the Town Centre.



Sport & Recreation

Alnwick is the centre for a wide range of sporting and recreation facilities which serve the town and the wider area. Many of these sports have club facilities based to the south of the Alnwick. These include Alnwick Rugby Football Club, Alnwick Cricket Club, Alnwick Castle Golf Club and Alnwick Town Football Club.



The major provider of indoor sports in the area is the Willowburn Sports and Leisure Centre, which was built in 2003 and is run by North Country Leisure. This is a quality venue with high levels of user satisfaction.

Whilst there is a good range of outdoor sports on offer for residents and visitors, many of the town's existing outdoor sports pitches or courts are of poor quality and some have inadequate changing facilities. Some of these issues could be addressed through the delivery of the Alnwick Sporting Club proposal at Greensfield which is proposed to include improved football pitches, tennis courts and an all-weather multi-sports synthetic pitch primarily for hockey but capable of being used for other sports.

A number of the schools in the town have significant areas of playing fields which are used for school sport and recreation (Duchess's Community High School, Duke's Middle School, Lindisfarne Middle School, St Paul's School and to a lesser degree the first schools). Community use of school playing fields could also be a future consideration to improve sports provision (see the education section).

There are seven existing children's play areas in the town, the most modern of which is at Swansfield Park. Some of the older play areas particularly to the south of Alnwick, consist of

buyers. Affordable housing is usually secured through a subsidy to enable the price or rent of the house to be substantially lower than the prevailing market price or rent locally.

To achieve this we are proposing that all sites over 10 dwellings should provide at least 35% of the dwellings as affordable. However, as a lot of housing sites are less than 10 units we are also proposing that all sites below 10 dwellings pay a financial contribution which will be applied by the County Council to the provision of affordable housing in Alnwick.

Delivering quality in housing

Quality of design in new housing has not been particularly successful in recent years especially in the larger estates built on the edge of the town. We have been more successful with smaller brownfield sites within the town. Housing in the plan period is likely to involve more housing on the edge of the town and we need to ensure this is designed and landscaped to a high standard to integrate it into the town and establish a 'sense of place'. We are proposing that the plan introduces a strong policy requiring design principles to be met and for housing to be built to recognised design standards.

Making more effective use of existing housing stock

Alnwick has a particular issue with quite a high number of vacant dwellings and under occupation of dwellings. If we can make more effective use of the housing we have it means we will need less new housing in the area. Ensuring a good range of housing will help ensure for example that people under occupying homes may 'downsize' to homes of a more appropriate size. We are also proposing however that the plan encourages the acquisition and refurbishment of vacant dwellings and residential space for example above shops in the town centre & makes this available for sale or rent.



Shopping & Town Centre

Context

Despite a challenging external environment:

- retailing in Alnwick is relatively vibrant and with a lower proportion of vacant shops than many other centres.
- the retail mix in the Town Centre is fair with a good proportion of independent retailers.
- Alnwick shops are estimated to benefit from just over 50% of the retail spend of local residents and those in the surrounding district.



Objectives

The following are proposed as the Town Centre & Retail objectives:

- to maintain the distinctive character of the Town Centre with a good/improving retail mix and a high proportion of independent retailers.
- to sustain an enabling environment for retail which supports the promotion of the town as a leisure and tourist destination, preserves and enhances the heritage values of the town and makes best use of its historic assets including the Market Place.
- to sustain and increase Alnwick's share of the retail spend of local residents and those living and doing business in the district (currently measured at 51%) both by tackling empty shops within the

aside more land for nature conservation. This need not be expensive as wildlife can prosper on marginal land with no development value and can often be secured through agreement with landowners.

Heritage & Culture

From any point of view, Alnwick with Denwick is undoubtedly a heritage focal point. In fact, heritage is a major part of the area's unique selling point. As the only Ducal town in the region and traditionally the County town of Northumberland, the area is of huge heritage importance in both the County and Region.

A unique combination of heritage features still remain from the area's Saxon, medieval, post-medieval, Victorian and 19th century past. In cultural terms this heritage and the buildings associated with it are the venues and backdrops to cultural events such as International Music Festival, Food Festival, Heritage Open Days and Northumbrian Gathering. The town is also fortunate in having the Playhouse, Bailiffgate Museum, a dedicated Town Crier and historic leisure transport (open-topped vintage tour buses and heritage railway).

Objectives to be achieved:

- To maximise the potential of heritage in Alnwick and Denwick to contribute to place shaping and support the visitor economy whilst encouraging local people to have a sense of pride, involvement and ownership.
- To improve how the historic town and village are set in the local landscape, refining their historic and urban design qualities and making them more people

friendly, whilst at the same time, supporting and sustaining their vital service and tourist economies.

- To ensure that the area's historic and architectural design quality is celebrated through stories, descriptions and features in guides, visitor publications, newspapers and the electronic media to proactively raise the unique heritage profile of Alnwick and Denwick.

HERITAGE

Heritage issues and options are:

The town and village in the landscape:

Prepare a comprehensive visual appraisal of the quality of the historic landscape setting to guide future development.

Main roads as recognisable gateways into Alnwick and Denwick: Explore ways of improving the 'gateway' qualities of main roads into the town and village

Boundary of conservation areas: Review the boundary of Alnwick's conservation area and investigate a new conservation area at Denwick.

Threatened historic assets: Prepare plans to rescue threatened historic buildings and survey the area for other buildings that warrant protection.

New build in the historic town and village: Prepare policies and design guides to help new development fit into the historic environment.

Erosion of townscape character by incremental changes to building fabric: Consider additional planning controls to protect important detailed features in the conservation area.

Townscape character threatened by street clutter and poor floorscape treatment: Prepare schemes to remove clutter and to upgrade the design and condition of road and pavement surfaces.

Threatened trees inside and outside the conservation area: Assess the condition of important trees in the area and plan further

protection, care or replacement, adding more street trees as enhancement.

Vital historic spaces: Prepare schemes to increase the use and decoration of quality urban spaces, particularly Alnwick Market Place.

Legibility and understanding of the townscape of town and village: Improve the signage to better reflect the needs of users and prepare a comprehensive interpretation strategy to assist the better presentation and branding of the area.

Enhancement of historic town, village and landscape: Encourage better maintenance of private properties through information and grant aid; prepare plans for a comprehensive upgrading of important parts of the conservation area.

A comprehensive vision for a coherent, legible and sustainable townscape:

To encourage an overall approach to be taken to the protection and enhancement of the historic centre, explore making Alnwick town centre an official 'Historic Core Zone'.

CULTURE

Culture issues and options are:

Specialised cultural buildings

Need to maintain steady and continuous funding:

Seek comprehensive support for more sponsorship, improved fund-raising skills as well as revenue earning capacity.

Better accessibility to the attractions:

Seek to improve transport links to venues and to improve the quality of local broadband to increase 'intellectual' access.

Poor condition and limited facilities:

Encourage the improvement and repair of our major bookable buildings, several of which are in poor condition and have facilities below standard.

Cultural spaces and major cultural events

Managing demand for more events using our limited cultural space: Encourage increased use of urban spaces and surrounding buildings

for more festivals and increased use at weekends, in winter and in the evenings.

Other general cultural issues

Need to promote the cultural offer of the town and village in its entirety:

Promote the improvement of signage from the A1 and branding and encourage more co-operation between attractions.

Development of creative industries in Alnwick and Denwick:

Assess the nature and quantity of the area's creative industries and explore means of developing them.

Our 'Way of Life' could be better explained and promoted:

Seek to better define the distinctiveness of our history and 'way of life' with a view to its better development and promotion.

Shortage of cultural facilities: Identify any cultural needs not yet served by present facilities and identify what future provision should be made to accommodate them.

Finally, heritage and cultural issues and options will be developed into recommended Proposals and Policies, as well as potential land allocations, to be incorporated into the plan to enhance the daily environment and the cultural lives of the communities of Alnwick and Denwick.

Housing

Alnwick is a popular and attractive place to live and retire to, accessible to Tyneside and with an enviable natural and built heritage which means there is a healthy demand for housing from outside the area as well as demand from an anticipated growth in the number of households locally.

This demand for housing historically has not been fully met by supply of new homes. This has led to an affordability problem in the plan area certainly since the early 2000's.

The Neighbourhood Plan will play a key role

in ensuring that sufficient housing land is delivered to meet housing requirements identified in the Northumberland Core Strategy in the period up to 2025, and local housing needs identified by housing needs surveys. It will seek to guide new housing development to sustainable locations in Alnwick. It will also seek to target the use of previously developed land where available and at densities that make the most efficient use of land whilst respecting the character and scale of the surroundings. A broad mix of housing types suitable for different households will contribute to the creation of a mixed and sustainable community.

The objectives for housing in the plan are:

- To provide sufficient land to meet Alnwick and Denwick's housing requirements to 2025 particularly the need for affordable housing.
- To provide a choice of sizes, types and tenure of quality housing particularly creating opportunities for young people and the elderly.

What level of housing growth should we be catering for?

It is difficult in the absence of a specific housing needs assessment for Alnwick to accurately predict the housing requirement for Alnwick and Denwick. However, in addition to meeting local housing needs we also need to provide for open market demand. Failure to do that will put more pressure on existing housing from retirees and other in-migrants making it less accessible to the local population. We need to agree a level of supply that will meet local needs and is sustainable in terms of Alnwick's social, economic and environmental context.

The County Core Strategy has looked at 3 options – maintaining existing housing levels; lower housing levels and a targeted increase. As evidence suggests that needs were not wholly met in the past, only a targeted increase

is feasible. Working at the upper end of the Core Strategy range would require around 50 dwellings a year over the plan period – a total of 700-750 dwellings.

The distribution and location of housing

Alnwick is a sustainable location for housing as identified in the County Core Strategy. In the past previously developed land has contributed significantly to supply of land. However, this will reduce in the plan period although school sites when vacated will assist. Therefore more greenfield sites will be required. Constraints in terms of historic landscapes to the north of Alnwick mean that most of the development possibilities are to the south and east of the town. Sites with planning permission and identified in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment will provide approximately 2/3rds of the required houses. Options of land at Greensfield – (south of the town) and east of Allerburn Lea north of Alnmouth Road are the most feasible for development.

Ensuring choice of housing

As well as ensuring the quantity is right we have to ensure that the plan delivers choice in the size, type and tenure of housing. If the plan simply leaves delivery to the market to decide, the type of housing will be dictated by what sells most easily. It is suggested that the plan includes an enabling policy that encourages a range of provision.

Delivering affordability

The ratio of house prices to income remains at in excess of 8:1 and for the majority of the population housing is simply not affordable to buy. If not responded to the affordability problem could result in difficulties in retaining younger economically active population and ultimately in recruiting staff. The Plan will have to increase the amount of affordable housing and seek to deliver smaller housing units appealing to the younger and first time





Alnwick & Denwick NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Options For The Future

**The Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan (ADNP)
is your plan for your neighbourhood.**

It is a new type of plan prepared under the Localism Act where the local community is in 'the driving seat'. Alnwick Town Council, in consultation with Denwick Parish Council, is preparing the plan but an essential part of the process is that you, as local residents and people who use the town, are fully engaged.

Last December we published a questionnaire, asking your views on the main issues facing the area. Since then we have been investigating the issues you helped identify, developing aims for the plan and looking at options across a range of topic areas.

The following are the aims we think the plan must achieve:

1 Economy and Employment

To support, strengthen and diversify Alnwick as the principal employment and service centre for the wider area.

2 Retail and Tourism

To maintain and develop a comprehensive mix of retail and tourism facilities which provide a locally distinctive shopper and visitor experience, whilst meeting local needs.

3 Community, Leisure and Education Facilities

To provide high quality, accessible and affordable community, leisure and education facilities to meet the needs of all parts of the local community.

4 Transport

To improve the facilities for the movement of people, goods and services within Alnwick and Denwick. To enhance the pedestrian experience and to improve the management of vehicle access throughout the plan area.

5 Environment

To create a more sustainable neighbourhood that respects and enhances the special character of the area.

To increase the amount of public open space that is readily accessible to all.

6 Heritage and Culture

To protect and enhance the special architectural and historic character of Alnwick as a unique ducal township and promote its key role in supporting the local economy and in defining local identity.

To sustain and enrich the cultural life of Alnwick.

7 Housing

To provide a sufficient quantity and range of good quality housing, appropriate to meet local needs and the development of the town as a sustainable service centre.

8 Sport and Recreation

To improve the provision of good quality, accessible and affordable sports and recreation facilities.

The ADNP is very much your plan for your local neighbourhood area. However, for the plan to have full weight, it is important that we work within broad national planning policies and Northumberland Core Strategy policies. We have therefore been working with the County Council exploring and testing our ideas with them.

Before we draft the plan itself it is important we get your views on the options we have identified - so this booklet gives you a flavour of where we are with each topic and asks a number of questions. The answers will help us move the plan forward.

If you feel the questions do not cover all the areas that you want to comment on, please use the spaces at the end of each section to tell us what you think.

This booklet is only a summary of all the work over the last year and we have focussed the questions on the key areas we need your views on. The detailed papers on each topic are all available on the website at:

www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk

Your views on any aspect of those papers would be welcome and can be sent in by email, post or by using the website's 'Contact Us' page.

December 2012

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Community Facilities

Alnwick already has a diverse range of activities and support services which are provided by a large number of organisations in the Alnwick & Denwick areas.

The objective for the Neighbourhood Plan is that:

By 2025 the people of Alnwick and Denwick will have access to high quality community facilities that are fit for purpose and have the capacity required to maintain and improve a vibrant, inclusive and healthy society.

The plan aims to achieve this by supporting the development of community activity, ensuring community buildings meet future demands by looking at better use of redundant / underused buildings to provide some of these facilities and improved communication between individuals, businesses and groups.

In order to be successful the plan needs to support the people of Alnwick and Denwick by keeping them informed and encouraging them to get involved in decision making.

Information, advice & support

Issue: Services are based in a number of different locations within Alnwick. There is potential to benefit from joined up working and easier access to sites by integrating services. Some of the buildings used to house these services are below the standard that would be expected for a public building.

Option: The plan needs to ensure we provide the services that people need, in accessible locations and in fit-for-purpose buildings.

Community buildings

Issue: The quality of some community buildings is poor in terms of physical accessibility, energy efficiency, comfort and general repair and maintenance.

Option: The plan should support the improvement of community buildings and ensure capacity will meet future demand. There is also potential to use redundant buildings to provide facilities.

Services for young people

Issue: A lack of facilities for young people in Alnwick leading to problems at hotspots such as the bus station. Alnwick offers a range of targeted youth provision, including, advice and information, drop in sessions, supported housing and floating support, development work and group work.

Option: We need to continue and improve the provision of youth work and provision of facilities for young people.

Option: The Plan should identify a location for the provision of facilities for young people to get together without causing concern for residents and visitors. Facilities could include seating, shelter, lighting and open wifi access.

Services for older people

Issue: A diverse range of activities and support services to the elderly are provided by a large number of organisations in the Alnwick & Denwick areas.

Option: The plan needs to support the continued provision of facilities for older people.

Public toilets

Issue: Public toilets have been highlighted as being of very poor quality. The lack of public toilets near to the bus station is an issue for people arriving / departing Alnwick by bus.

Option: The plan should propose improved provision and quality of toilet facilities for public use.

Community communication & awareness

Issue: Issues were raised at the community consultation events that it was not easy to find out what is going on in Alnwick and surrounding areas.

Option: We need to improve communication to ensure individuals, businesses and groups have a better understanding of what is happening in the area for example by setting up a community information website.

Economy & Employment

Planning for sustainable growth in Alnwick as a main service centre is critical to wider issues such as retaining an active working population and young people and attracting new investment.

The plan will need to provide for a wider range of economic activity than the traditional sectors of the past, and will need to be responsive to change. Tourism, retailing and the service sector will continue to be an important component of the town's economy.



Objectives for the plan

- to act as a main service centre to support the wider rural hinterland and economy
- to offer a range of employment opportunities to assist in retaining a young and vibrant population and to create wealth within the town
- to meet the needs of new investment and new and existing businesses within the town
- to assist and enable a flexible approach to growth and diversification of the local economy
- to meet the above objectives in a sustainable and environmentally sensitive way
- to provide an integrated approach to economic development with other key topic areas of housing, retailing, infrastructure and education.

The level of economic growth

Potentially the town could plan to encourage a higher level of growth with the objective of attracting new investment and employment. That would create greater opportunity to attract and retain young people and to retain a higher proportion of economically active people.

The key options are whether the town should plan to constrain the level of economic growth, retain growth at historic levels or actively promote growth at a higher but sustainable level. The direction of economic policy at a National and County level is to promote growth, and this view is also reflected in the initial public consultation responses to the Alnwick & Denwick Plan.

The extent and choice of land to be allocated for economic development use for Alnwick is therefore likely to be within the range of an additional 10 to 15 hectares in the period to 2025.

The location of development

Land is required in locations which are both relatively easy and cost effective to develop and attractive to employers. This, along with the sensitivity of the landscape, limits the choice of locations for new employment areas in Alnwick, to the south side of the town.

The principal opportunities for development are either land east of the A1 near to existing employment sites or south of the town at Greensfield or both.

Alnwick and Denwick are well below the national and proposed county standards for community open space, in particular parks and gardens, natural & semi-natural green space and amenity green space. As an example, the proposed county standard for parks and gardens is to have at least 2.14 hectares per 1,000 population; in Alnwick and Denwick the figure is only 0.33 hectares per 1,000 population. On the edge of the town is Hulne Park which is open to the public for walking, on many days of the year without charge.

Both Hulne Park and The Pastures make significant contributions to the recreation offer and green infrastructure in Alnwick & Denwick, but are not freely available all the time. The plan could look to create more publicly accessible green space in the area.

There are 11 allotment sites in the plan area, these are provided by the Town Council and Northumberland Estates. Whilst the overall space allocated for allotments is above the county average, there are waiting lists and current turnover of allotments is low. Some allotments are badly maintained and of poor quality. We want to hear your views about the future need for allotments.

Tourism

Tourism has been important to Alnwick for a very long time. Alnwick Castle has been a high profile visitor attraction, and in recent years has expanded its opening hours, activities and visitor facilities. The success of The Alnwick Garden has increased the visitor numbers to Alnwick, putting the town on the map nationally as a tourism destination and stimulating the local economy.



Market context

The growth of tourism in and around Alnwick reflects demand from holidaymakers, packaged travel provided by coach and tour operators, business travel and visiting friends and relatives.

Tourism marketing bodies plan promotions in terms of target market segments and the main targets identified appear to require an emphasis on quality of product and service, environment and access to heritage and countryside.

Alnwick appears to have many of the relevant attractions, amenities and visitor-related services needed to function as an attractive and sustainable visitor destination, but has under-utilised off-peak capacity, and needs to address quality and accessibility if it is to realise its full potential.

Proposed tourism objectives:

- To establish Alnwick as a high quality and accessible year-round tourism destination
- To improve the range and quality of accommodation and other visitor-related services
- To encourage investment that will enhance the appeal of visitor attractions and activities
- To encourage visitors to spend more time in Alnwick Town Centre
- To encourage more visitors to walk, cycle and use public transport

Tourism in the economy

The thrust of national and county policy is to encourage tourism. The issue is particularly relevant for Alnwick as a key tourist destination in North Northumberland and it is likely that demands for tourism will continue to grow within the town.

However, it is equally important that tourism is not promoted to an extent that has negative effects due to over-reliance on one sector for economic growth, or that it drives out other sectors which contribute to the vitality of Alnwick as a market town and service sector.

The economic impact of tourism applies not only to businesses directly serving visitors, but also to the local supply chain and secondary economic impacts for example helping to support a wider range of shops, cafes, theatre, social facilities and services than might otherwise be sustainable for a town of this size.

The plan should support Alnwick's role as a viable and competitive tourism destination.

Tackling seasonality

Expanding capacity without addressing the seasonality issue will not help overall sustainability of the tourism sector: put simply, the short season makes it harder to achieve break-even and the generation of sufficient revenue to re-invest in improvements to facilities, quality of service etc.

Initiatives to extend the length of the tourism season should be promoted in the plan where it can be achieved with no environmental or land use impact upon the town.

Locations for tourism development

Tourism development, both attractions and accommodation, should be encouraged to be located within or adjacent to Alnwick, as one of the county's recognised service centres, where it can complement other tourist businesses and services and enhance Alnwick's overall visitor appeal.

Future tourism developments should be assessed in terms of:

- Quality of design and fitness for purpose
- Contribution to the overall attractiveness of Alnwick as a tourism destination
- Ease of access to other visitor facilities and services in the town
- Contribution to extending the season
- Protecting the town's most sensitive environments

Access for all

Catering for the needs of visitors with mobility restrictions applies to a wide cross-section of society.

Addressing accessibility will shape Alnwick's long-term reputation and economic benefits derived from tourism. It will also play a big part in making the town more attractive to live and work in.

The plan should promote access improvements in order to be a welcoming and delightful place for all, including visitors with restricted mobility.

Signposting and interpretation

Visitors and local people need to be able to navigate their way around the town, find places of interest, car parks and other facilities. Linked to this is a desire to strengthen local links between retail and leisure facilities and to ensure that the Castle/Gardens connects strongly with the core of the town.

Interpretation of the historical and architectural features of the town is also desirable in helping to orientate visitors and enhance their enjoyment. Achieving this would also benefit local people and make moving around the town a more pleasurable experience.

Coach tours

At present Alnwick does not appear to be making the most of opportunities presented by the coach tour market mainly because of the poor coach parking facilities within the town centre.

Coach parking, drop-off and pick-up provision should be improved to ensure that Alnwick is made attractive for short stay town centre related coach operators and their passengers.

and ultimately in recruiting staff. The Plan will have to increase the amount of affordable housing and seek to deliver smaller housing units appealing to the younger and first time buyers. Affordable housing is usually secured through a subsidy to enable the price or rent of the house to be substantially lower than the prevailing market price or rent locally. To achieve this we are proposing that all sites over 10 dwellings should provide at least 35% of the dwellings as affordable. However, as a lot of housing sites are less than 10 units we are also proposing that all sites below 10 dwellings pay a financial contribution which will be applied by the County Council to the provision of affordable housing in Alnwick.

Delivering quality in housing

Quality of design in new housing has not been particularly successful in recent years especially in the larger estates built on the edge of the town. We have been more successful with smaller brownfield sites within the town. Housing in the plan period is likely to involve more housing on the edge of the town and we need to ensure this is designed and landscaped to a high standard to integrate it into the town and establish a 'sense of place'. We are proposing that the plan introduces a strong policy requiring design principles to be met and for housing to be built to recognised design standards.

Making more effective use of existing housing stock

Alnwick has a particular issue with quite a high number of vacant dwellings and under occupation of dwellings. If we can make more effective use of the housing we have it means we will need less new housing in the area. Ensuring a good range of housing will help ensure for example that people under occupying homes may 'downsize' to homes of a more appropriate size. We are also proposing however that the plan encourages the acquisition and refurbishment of vacant dwellings and residential space for example above shops in the town centre & makes this available for sale or rent.

Shopping & Town Centre

Context

Despite a challenging external environment:

- retailing in Alnwick is relatively vibrant and with a lower proportion of vacant shops than many other centres
- the retail mix in the Town Centre is fair with a good proportion of independent retailers
- Alnwick shops are estimated to benefit from just over 50% of the retail spend of local residents and those in the surrounding district.

Objectives

The following are proposed as the Town Centre & Retail objectives:

- to maintain the distinctive character of the Town Centre with a good/improving retail mix and a high proportion of independent retailers
- to sustain an enabling environment for retail which supports the promotion of the town as a leisure and tourist destination, preserves and enhances the heritage values of the town and makes best use of its historic assets including the Market Place
- to sustain and increase Alnwick's share of the retail spend of local residents and those living and doing business in the district (currently measured at 51%) both by tackling empty shops within the Town Centre and by concentrating the development of 'out of town centre' retail in trade outlets

- to pursue the above objectives in a way which supports the plan's aims in respect of employment, housing, transport, tourism, heritage and community facilities.

Options

In summary, some of the key considerations involve:

- a **Retail Development Master Plan** to control retail development within the Town Centre and the growth of out of the town centre outlets, and
- a desired target within such a Plan for the ratio between retail shops and other commercial and leisure premises within the Town Centre
- policies to support and nurture the town's independent retailers
- the need for more prestige high street chains in Alnwick
- an integrated plan for the development of the Market Place, the Northumberland Hall, and the historic Town Centre
- proposals for greater pedestrian priority in the Town Centre
- proposals to address poor disabled access around the Town Centre
- a plan to link Alnwick's principal retail 'hubs' in the marketing and promotion of the town, or
- focus marketing and promotion only on the Town Centre.

Sport & Recreation

Alnwick is the centre for a wide range of sporting and recreation facilities which serve the town and the wider area. Many of these sports have club facilities based to the south of the Alnwick. These include Alnwick Rugby Football Club, Alnwick Cricket Club, Alnwick Castle Golf Club and Alnwick Town Football Club.

The major provider of indoor sports in the area is the Willowburn Sports and Leisure Centre, which was built in 2003 and is run by North Country Leisure. This is a quality venue with high levels of user satisfaction.

Whilst there is a good range of outdoor sports on offer for residents and visitors, many of the town's existing outdoor sports pitches or courts are of poor quality and some have inadequate changing facilities. Some of these issues could be addressed through the delivery of the Alnwick Sporting Club proposal at Greensfield which is proposed to include improved football pitches, tennis courts and an all-weather multi-sports synthetic pitch primarily for hockey but capable of being used for other sports.

A number of the schools in the town have significant areas of playing fields which are used for school sport and recreation (Duchess's Community High School, Dukes Middle School, Lindisfarne Middle School, St Paul's School and to a lesser degree the first schools). Community use of school playing fields could also be a future consideration to improve sports provision (see the education section).

There are seven existing children's play areas in the town, the most modern of which is at Swansfield Park. Some of the older play areas particularly to the south of Alnwick, consist of only one or two pieces of equipment and need to be replaced or upgraded.



Existing employment sites

The quality of existing employment sites varies and there is a need to encourage new investment to maintain their long term future, requiring greater flexibility and adaptability.

The options for the plan are either to restrict the use of employment sites strictly to office, industrial or storage use or allow a wider range of uses providing they lead to retention or creation of employment and reinvestment in the fabric and infrastructure of the area.

The town centre and the economy

Alnwick Town Centre provides the focus for services, shopping, eating-out and leisure employment. The centre's mix of traditional and modern businesses is critical to maintaining distinctiveness and viability. However the capacity for the centre to provide for new employment opportunities is relatively limited. Consideration could be given to encouraging a wider range of economic and employment uses in the centre rather than predominantly shops. This could have benefits such as stimulating a more vibrant evening economy or new services.

Given the town centre's physical constraints to expansion, it is important to identify ways in which it will compete to attract new investment in the future.

Tourism and the economy

It is likely that demands for tourism will continue to grow within the town which the plan could support. However it is equally important that tourism is not promoted to such an extent that we become over-reliant on this one sector for economic growth. A balance is needed which protects the most sensitive environments, but allows tourism developments within and adjacent to the town.

Employment of young people

Retaining and attracting young people requires action across a range of issues and providing training and appropriate employment opportunities is important.

The plan should support development that is beneficial to attracting and retaining young people, uses local labour and offers training and apprenticeship schemes.

Education

Access to first class educational facilities is the aspiration of every community and is essential to support future development in the town.

Some of the issues facing education are beyond the scope of the plan. What is in scope are the implications of choices made on the key matters of educational change in the town, on the future use of vacated school sites and on the dual use of new school and sports facilities at Greensfield.

The education objective of the plan is:

To ensure that development taking place in the town is supported by sufficient quantity of school places and a high quality of education provision.

Ensuring quality in education provision to support future development.

The quality of schools provision is a key consideration, not just for residents, but also for families considering a move and employers looking to establish or relocate a business. If Alnwick's population is to grow then schools must have the capacity to accept increased numbers and meet rising parental expectations.

All Alnwick schools, other than the recently refurbished St Paul's, suffer from serious problems linked to dilapidation of buildings, which are not fit for purpose and/or are in unsuitable locations creating problems of traffic congestion etc. The Duchess's Community High School, located on 2 separate sites, is to be replaced by a new school in recognition of its extreme unsuitability and dilapidation. It has embarked on a process of converting to academy status along with its federated schools.

It is intended that the new school will be sited on land at Greensfield, west of the Alnwick Cricket Club. Although funding appears to be sufficient for only a high school replacement, there have been calls for a single all age learning facility on this site, comprising at least the additional middle school components.

This would have the advantage of concentrating education provision on the southern edge of town where traffic can be more easily accommodated but the down side of concentrating everything there is that for pupils on the north of the town it makes travelling to school by sustainable means difficult.

The plan needs to come to a view on whether the new site should be an all age education campus or not.



The future of school sites

Northumberland County Council owns the main High School site and the Lindisfarne Middle School site. These two sites together with the land at the Dukes School, owned by Northumberland Estates and the Bailiffgate Annexe buildings, present significant opportunities for re-use and redevelopment to the benefit of the town.

The sites could be developed for a variety of uses. The housing section of the plan suggests some of the school sites being used for housing but other uses including community services, business, leisure developments etc are all possibilities. However the school sites are currently composed of buildings and a substantial element of greenspace. Given the lack of publically accessible greenspace in the town a substantial part of these sites should be retained as public open space.

Dual use of facilities

Plans for providing a mixed use outdoor sports facility for Alnwick sporting clubs are being developed very close to the new school site. At the same time the existing schools currently provide venues for various community activities after school.

The Greensfield sports complex will initially provide facilities for football, tennis and hockey. It makes sense to capitalise on this proximity by allowing school students to use the facilities rather than duplicating provision and thereby share the burden of maintenance between community and school. Similarly, internal space at the new school should be offered to the community outside of school hours. The Neighbourhood Plan needs to encourage this dual use.

Other educational facilities

Education needs of the community don't start and end with education for the 5-18 age group. Nurseries and after-school care for younger children, youth clubs and facilities, special needs education facilities and adult education services are all present in the town.

The future of all these education-related facilities are vital in supporting development in Alnwick and Denwick and facilitating life-long learning and the plan should have a role to play in promoting their retention.

Environment

This section looks at improving the pleasure we take in our environment, reducing our environmental impact, increasing biodiversity and making us more resilient to increasing fuel prices and climate change.

Dog-fouling, litter and recycling

Dog fouling and littering were the top reported environmental issues in the Alnwick and Denwick community consultation last year. Contact with dog waste can cause toxocariasis, resulting in blindness. Research by Keep Britain Tidy suggests that more bins in the right places help tackle littering and dog fouling.

We recycle 40% of waste in Northumberland, but this will not increase much further unless we make it easier to recycle materials like glass, cartons and textiles. There are sites at Lionheart Business Park, Greenwell Lane car park, and less well-used sites at Willowburn Sports Centre and the Co-op petrol station, but no supermarkets or other car parks provide recycling.

Warm homes and renewable energy

Carbon emissions from our homes are 23% higher in Northumberland than elsewhere in England and Wales. This is largely due to the number of older solid wall properties. A 2009 study found that 18% of Alnwick households lived in fuel poverty, whilst in Denwick the figure may be around 45%. These numbers will have increased with rising energy prices, and can be expected to increase further. The plan could make homes more energy-efficient through incentives, publicity, supporting schemes or through the planning system.

Currently about 1% of Alnwick and Denwick's energy use comes from local renewable sources, such as solar panels, wood burners and heat pumps. Planning permission is often required to install solar panels in conservation areas. The plan could come up with measures to encourage householders and businesses to adopt renewable energy.

Trees and nature reserves

Alnwick and Denwick have many attractive and historic trees along routes into the town and in the town centre which should be protected and preserved. Very few of our publicly accessible trees produce edible fruit. Predicted doubling of oil prices in 10 years and lifestyle changes in the developing world will make expensive food even more costly. The North-East is a net importer of fresh fruit, so more fruit trees in publicly-accessible space will help protect communities from rising prices. Grants for trees are available from many organisations, and tree planting has been carried out by volunteers from environmental groups, Alnwick Lions, Girl Guides and town councillors.

We also have very few local nature reserves. There are small reserves at Craster, Whittingham and Littlehoughton, but the total area falls far short of the government agency Natural England's standard, and there are no nature reserves at all in Alnwick or Denwick. To meet the standard, we need to set aside more land for nature conservation. This need not be expensive as wildlife can prosper on marginal land with no development value and can often be secured through agreement with landowners.



Heritage & Culture

From any point of view, Alnwick with Denwick is undoubtedly a heritage focal point. In fact, heritage is a major part of the area's unique selling point. As the only Ducal town in the region and traditionally the County town of Northumberland, the area is of huge heritage importance in both the County and Region.

A unique combination of heritage features still remain from the area's Saxon, medieval, post-medieval, Victorian and 19th century past. In cultural terms this heritage and the buildings associated with it are the venues and backdrops to cultural events such as International Music Festival, Food Festival, Heritage Open Days and Northumbrian Gathering. The town is also fortunate in having the Playhouse, Bailiffgate Museum, a dedicated Town Crier and historic leisure transport (open-topped vintage tour buses and heritage railway).

Objectives to be achieved:

- To maximise the potential of heritage in Alnwick and Denwick to contribute to place shaping and support the visitor economy whilst encouraging local people to have a sense of pride, involvement and ownership.
- To improve how the historic town and village are set in the local landscape, refining their historic and urban design qualities and making them more people friendly, whilst at the same time, supporting and sustaining their vital service and tourist economies.
- To ensure that the area's historic and architectural design quality is celebrated through stories, descriptions and features in guides, visitor publications, newspapers and the electronic media to proactively raise the unique heritage profile of Alnwick and Denwick

HERITAGE

Heritage issues and options are:

The town and village in the landscape: Prepare a comprehensive visual appraisal of the quality of the historic landscape setting to guide future development.

Main roads as recognisable gateways into Alnwick and Denwick: Explore ways of improving the 'gateway' qualities of main roads into the town and village

Boundary of conservation areas: Review the boundary of Alnwick's conservation area and investigate a new conservation area at Denwick.

Threatened historic assets: Prepare plans to rescue threatened historic buildings and survey the area for other buildings that warrant protection.

New build in the historic town and village: Prepare policies and design guides to help new development fit into the historic environment.

Erosion of townscape character by incremental changes to building fabric: Consider additional planning controls to protect important detailed features in the conservation area.

Townscape character threatened by street clutter and poor floorscape treatment: Prepare schemes to remove clutter and to upgrade the design and condition of road and pavement surfaces.

Threatened trees inside and outside the conservation area: Assess the condition of important trees in the area and plan further protection, care or replacement, adding more street trees as enhancement.



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Vital historic spaces: Prepare schemes to increase the use and decoration of quality urban spaces, particularly Alnwick Market Place.

Legibility and understanding of the townscape of town and village: Improve the signage to better reflect the needs of users and prepare a comprehensive interpretation strategy to assist the better presentation and branding of the area.

Enhancement of historic town, village and landscape: Encourage better maintenance of private properties through information and grant aid; prepare plans for a comprehensive upgrading of important parts of the conservation area.

A comprehensive vision for a coherent, legible and sustainable townscape: To encourage an overall approach to be taken to the protection and enhancement of the historic centre, explore making Alnwick town centre an official 'Historic Core Zone'.

CULTURE

Culture issues and options are:

Specialised cultural buildings

Need to maintain steady and continuous funding: Seek comprehensive support for more sponsorship, improved fund-raising skills as well as revenue earning capacity.

Better accessibility to the attractions: Seek to improve transport links to venues and to improve the quality of local broadband to increase 'intellectual' access.

Poor condition and limited facilities: Encourage the improvement and repair of our major bookable buildings, several of which are in poor condition and have facilities below standard.

Cultural spaces and major cultural events

Managing Demand for more events using our limited cultural space: Encourage increased use of urban spaces and surrounding buildings for more festivals and increased use at weekends, in winter and in the evenings.

Other general cultural issues

Need to promote the cultural offer of the town and village in its entirety: Promote the improvement of signage from the A1 and branding and encourage more co-operation between attractions.

Development of creative industries in Alnwick and Denwick: Assess the nature and quantity of the area's creative industries and explore means of developing them.

Our 'Way of Life' could be better explained and promoted: Seek to better define the distinctiveness of our history and 'way of life' with a view to its better development and promotion.

Shortage of cultural facilities: Identify any cultural needs not yet served by present facilities and identify what future provision should be made to accommodate them.

Finally, heritage and cultural issues and options will be developed into recommended Proposals and Policies, as well as potential land allocations, to be incorporated into the plan to enhance the daily environment and the cultural lives of the communities of Alnwick and Denwick.

Housing

Alnwick is a popular and attractive place to live and retire to, accessible to Tyneside and with an enviable natural and built heritage which means there is a healthy demand for housing from outside the area as well as demand from an anticipated growth in the number of households locally.

This demand for housing historically has not been fully met by supply of new homes. This has led to an affordability problem in the plan area certainly since the early 2000's.

The Neighbourhood Plan will play a key role in ensuring that sufficient housing land is delivered to meet housing requirements identified in the Northumberland Core Strategy in the period up to 2025, and local housing needs identified by housing needs surveys. It will seek to guide new housing development to sustainable locations in Alnwick. It will also seek to target the use of previously developed land where available and at densities that make the most efficient use of land whilst respecting the character and scale of the surroundings. A broad mix of housing types suitable for different households will contribute to the creation of a mixed and sustainable community.

The objectives for housing in the plan are:

- To provide sufficient land to meet Alnwick and Denwick's housing requirements to 2025 particularly the need for affordable housing
- To provide a choice of sizes, types and tenure of quality housing particularly creating opportunities for young people and the elderly.

What level of housing growth should we be catering for?

It is difficult in the absence of a specific housing needs assessment for Alnwick to accurately predict the housing requirement for Alnwick and Denwick. However, in addition to meeting local housing needs we also need to provide for open market demand. Failure to do that will put more pressure on existing housing from retirees and other in-migrants making it less accessible to the local population. We need to agree a level of supply that will meet local needs and is sustainable in terms of Alnwick's social, economic and environmental context.

The County Core Strategy has looked at 3 options – maintaining existing housing levels; lower housing levels and a targeted increase. As evidence suggests that needs were not wholly met in the past, only a targeted increase is feasible. Working at the upper end of the Core Strategy range would require around 50 dwellings a year over the plan period – a total of 700-750 dwellings.

The distribution and location of housing

Alnwick is a sustainable location for housing as identified in the County Core Strategy. In the past previously developed land has contributed significantly to supply of land. However, this will reduce in the plan period although school sites when vacated will assist. Therefore more greenfield sites will be required. Constraints in terms of historic landscapes to the north of Alnwick mean that most of the development possibilities are to the south and east of the town.

Sites with planning permission and identified in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment will provide approximately 2/3rds of the required houses. Options of land at Greensfield – (south of the town) and east of Allerburn Lea north of Alnmouth Road are the most feasible for development.

Ensuring choice of housing

As well as ensuring the quantity is right we have to ensure that the plan delivers choice in the size, type and tenure of housing. If the plan simply leaves delivery to the market to decide, the type of housing will be dictated by what sells most easily. It is suggested that the plan includes an enabling policy that encourages a range of provision.

Delivering affordability

The ratio of house prices to income remains at in excess of 8:1 and for the majority of the population housing is simply not affordable to buy. If not responded to the affordability problem could result in difficulties in retaining younger economically active population



Transport



In working towards the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, it is essential that we have clear objectives to deliver the overall plan aim for transport.

These are:

- To improve access to homes, work and facilities for people and goods
- To enhance the viability and vitality of Alnwick town centre for residents and visitors
- To link residential, commercial, recreational and functional parts of the plan area
- To improve conditions for walking, cycling, wheelchair and buggy users
- To improve the provision of public transport
- To increase pedestrian priority and reduce car dependence
- To contribute to the development of a sustainable future

The transport issues of concern and options for their resolution are:

- **Issue:** Providing safe and attractive opportunities for all to walk within the limit of their ability.
Option principle: Develop a comprehensive network of attractive, well-maintained footpaths to link the residential, educational, commercial and industrial areas of Alnwick town and its central area.
Option example: Develop a sensitive pedestrian priority scheme within the town centre.
- **Issue:** Providing for and promoting cycling as a useful and practical way of getting about the plan area.
Option Principle: Develop a well maintained, safe and signed cycle route network, mainly on existing streets, within Alnwick town and linking to surrounding villages.
- **Issue:** Improving the provision for public buses, community transport, private hire coaches and similar vehicles.
Option principle: Develop the Alnwick Bus Station as a modern, high quality transport hub serving the plan area.
Option example: Improve private hire bus and coach access and drop off/pick up and layover/parking provision.
- **Issue:** Supporting access, delivery and distribution of goods and services.
Option principle: Progressively improve traffic management schemes for necessary delivery and maintenance vehicles in a way that does not result in pavements being obstructed or damaged.
- **Issue:** Improving the functionality, viability and vitality of the Market Place.
Option principle: Recognise that market activity and community benefit require vehicles to be excluded from the Market Place other than at prescribed times and for prescribed purposes.
- **Issue:** Seeking to improve sustainable links to the world around Alnwick and Denwick.
Option principle: Develop better links with Alnmouth Station to improve longer distance travel options for business and leisure journeys.

- **Issue:** Enhancing the environment to improve the quality of life for all.
Option principle: Promote transport provision that generally enhances the health, wellbeing and quality of life for all.
Option example: Design changes in transport provision so that they contribute to an improvement of the streetscape that reconciles the need for up-to-date facilities with a well conserved town environment.
- **Issue:** Keeping transport infrastructure in a safe and attractive condition.
Option principle: Prepare and implement a five-year strategic plan for the repair of footpaths and pedestrian areas, road crossings and markings, eliminating the many safety hazards that currently exist for pedestrians.
- **Issue:** Managing traffic for the benefit of all, with priority for pedestrians.
Option principle: Review the traffic systems and signing that bring people into the town; devise unobtrusive systems that give real meaning to the 'shared space' concept throughout the town and its approaches.
Option example: Restrict vehicle speeds to a maximum of 20mph in the residential areas of Alnwick town.
- **Issue:** Providing parking and managing and preventing the abuse of parking facilities.
Option principle: Encourage considerate parking to protect green verges, keep access to premises clear and drop kerbs free. Enforce regulations and eliminate abuse throughout the plan area.
Option example: Investigate the commercial provision of an aesthetically acceptable decked or multi-storey car park.
- **Issue:** Using the planning process to help improve transport and travel now and in future.
Option principle: Establish a hierarchy of travel options from walking (most in need of encouragement and improved facilities) through cycling, public transport and freight to private car travel that would help deliver more sustainable transport across the plan area.

Clearly, a key constraint that will determine the practicality and implementation of the options eventually agreed for inclusion in the plan will be the availability of funding. However, some of the options identified do not require new funding but do require a more determined application and enforcement of existing regulations. For example, the lack of enforcement of existing parking regulations in the plan area has contributed not only to traffic congestion but also to unnecessary safety hazards for pedestrians and access problems for those with impaired mobility.

The evidence available on traffic in Alnwick is now outdated and is based on national growth forecasts that have not materialised. The Department for Transport statistics show that national traffic levels have remained essentially the same over the last decade but the situation locally might usefully be explored. Similarly, the widely differing views on the adequacy of parking provision should be investigated further.

The interaction of transport and travel with other aspects of life in the plan area is certain to require compromises to be reached if transport is to fulfil its role of supporting the local community and economy without damaging the environment.

A large print version of this document is available on request.

For further information contact: Bill Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk,
Alnwick Town Council, Cemetery Lodge Office, South Road, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 2PH
Telephone 07971 810267 or email: bill.batey@btconnect.com



Alnwick & Denwick

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Options For The Future

**The Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan (ADNP)
is your plan for your neighbourhood.**

It is a new type of plan prepared under the Localism Act where the local community is in 'the driving seat'. Alnwick Town Council, in consultation with Denwick Parish Council, is preparing the plan but an essential part of the process is that you, as local residents and people who use the town, are fully engaged. Last December we published a questionnaire, asking your views on the main issues facing the area. Since then we have been investigating the issues you helped identify, developing aims for the plan and looking at options across a range of topic areas.

The following are the aims we think the plan must achieve:

1 Economy and Employment

To support, strengthen and diversify Alnwick as the principal employment and service centre for the wider area.

2 Retail and Tourism

To maintain and develop a comprehensive mix of retail and tourism facilities which provide a locally distinctive shopper and visitor experience, whilst meeting local needs.

3 Community, Leisure and Education Facilities

To provide high quality, accessible and affordable community, leisure and education facilities to meet the needs of all parts of the local community.

4 Transport

To improve the facilities for the movement of people, goods and services within Alnwick and Denwick. To enhance the pedestrian experience and to improve the management of vehicle access throughout the plan area.

5 Environment

To create a more sustainable neighbourhood that respects and enhances the special character of the area.

To increase the amount of public open space that is readily accessible to all.

6 Heritage and Culture

To protect and enhance the special architectural and historic character of Alnwick as a unique ducal township and promote its key role in supporting the local economy and in defining local identity.

To sustain and enrich the cultural life of Alnwick.

7 Housing

To provide a sufficient quantity and range of good quality housing, appropriate to meet local needs and the development of the town as a sustainable service centre.

8 Sport and Recreation

To improve the provision of good quality, accessible and affordable sports and recreation facilities.

The ADNP is very much your plan for your local neighbourhood area. However, for the plan to have full weight, it is important that we work within broad national planning policies and Northumberland Core Strategy policies. We have therefore been working with the County Council exploring and testing our ideas with them.

Before we draft the plan itself it is important we get your views on the options we have identified - so this booklet gives you a flavour of where we are with each topic and asks a number of questions. The answers will help us move the plan forward.

If you feel the questions do not cover all the areas that you want to comment on, please use the space at the end of the questionnaire to tell us what you think.

This booklet is only a summary of all the work over the last year and we have focussed the questions on the key areas we need your views on. The detailed papers on each topic are all available on the website at:
www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk

Your views on any aspect of those papers would be welcome and can be sent in by email, post or by using the website's 'Contact Us' page.

December 2012

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Community Facilities

Alnwick already has a diverse range of activities and support services which are provided by a large number of organisations in the Alnwick & Denwick areas.

The objective for the Neighbourhood Plan is that:

By 2025 the people of Alnwick and Denwick will have access to high quality community facilities that are fit for purpose and have the capacity required to maintain and improve a vibrant, inclusive and healthy society.

The plan aims to achieve this by supporting the development of community activity, ensuring community buildings meet future demands by looking at better use of redundant/ underused buildings to provide some of these facilities and improved communication between individuals, businesses and groups.

In order to be successful the plan needs to support the people of Alnwick and Denwick by keeping them informed and encouraging them to get involved in decision making.

Information, advice & support

Issue: Services are based in a number of different locations within Alnwick. There is potential to benefit from joined up working and easier access to sites by integrating services. Some of the buildings used to house these services are below the standard that would be expected for a public building.

Option: The plan needs to ensure we provide the services that people need, in accessible locations and in fit-for-purpose buildings.

Community buildings

Issue: The quality of some community buildings is poor in terms of physical accessibility, energy efficiency, comfort and general repair and maintenance.

Option: The plan should support the improvement of community buildings and ensure capacity will meet future demand. There is also potential to use redundant buildings to provide facilities.

Services for young people

Issue: A lack of facilities for young people in Alnwick leading to problems at hotspots such as the bus station.

Alnwick offers a range of targeted youth provision, including, advice and information, drop in sessions, supported housing and floating support, development work and group work.

Option: We need to continue and improve the provision of youth work and provision of facilities for young people.

Option: The Plan should identify a location for the provision of facilities for young people to get together without causing concern for residents and visitors. Facilities could include seating, shelter, lighting and open wifi access.

Services for older people

Issue: A diverse range of activities and support services to the elderly are provided by a large number of organisations in the Alnwick & Denwick areas.

Option: The plan needs to support the continued provision of facilities for older people.

Public toilets

Issue: Public toilets have been highlighted as being of very poor quality. The lack of public toilets near to the bus station is an issue for people arriving / departing Alnwick by bus.

Option: The plan should propose improved provision and quality of toilet facilities for public use.

Community communication & awareness

Issue: Issues were raised at the community consultation events that it was not easy to find out what is going on in Alnwick and surrounding areas.

Option: We need to improve communication to ensure individuals, businesses and groups have a better understanding of what is happening in the area for example by setting up a community information website.



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Economy & Employment

Planning for sustainable growth in Alnwick as a main service centre is critical to wider issues such as retaining an active working population and young people and attracting new investment.

The plan will need to provide for a wider range of economic activity than the traditional sectors of the past, and will need to be responsive to change. Tourism, retailing and the service sector will continue to be an important component of the town's economy.

Objectives for the plan

- to act as a main service centre to support the wider rural hinterland and economy
- to offer a range of employment opportunities to assist in retaining a young and vibrant population and to create wealth within the town
- to meet the needs of new investment and new and existing businesses within the town
- to assist and enable a flexible approach to growth and diversification of the local economy
- to meet the above objectives in a sustainable and environmentally sensitive way
- to provide an integrated approach to economic development with other key topic areas of housing, retailing, infrastructure and education.

The level of economic growth

Potentially the town could plan to encourage a higher level of growth with the objective of attracting new investment and employment. That would create greater opportunity to attract and retain young people and to retain a higher proportion of economically active people.

The key options are whether the town should plan to constrain the level of economic growth, retain growth at historic levels or actively promote growth at a higher but sustainable level. The direction of economic policy at a National and County level is to promote growth, and this view is also reflected in the initial public consultation responses to the Alnwick & Denwick Plan.

The extent and choice of land to be allocated for economic development use for Alnwick is therefore likely to be within the range of an additional 10 to 15 hectares in the period to 2025.

The location of development

Land is required in locations which are both relatively easy and cost effective to develop and attractive to employers. This, along with the sensitivity of the landscape, limits the choice of locations for new employment areas in Alnwick, to the south side of the town.

The principal opportunities for development are either land east

of the A1 near to existing employment sites or south of the town at Greensfield or both.

Existing employment sites

The quality of existing employment sites varies and there is a need to encourage new investment to maintain their long term future, requiring greater flexibility and adaptability.

The options for the plan are either to restrict the use of employment sites strictly to office, industrial or storage use or allow a wider range of uses providing they lead to retention or creation of employment and reinvestment in the fabric and infrastructure of the area.

The town centre and the economy

Alnwick Town Centre provides the focus for services, shopping, eating-out and leisure employment. The centre's mix of traditional and modern businesses is critical to maintaining distinctiveness and viability. However the capacity for the centre to provide for new employment opportunities is relatively limited. Consideration could be given to encouraging a wider range of economic and employment uses in the centre rather than predominantly shops. This could have benefits such as stimulating a more vibrant evening economy or new services.

Given the town centre's physical constraints to expansion, it is important to identify ways in which it will compete to attract new investment in the future.

Tourism and the economy

It is likely that demands for tourism will continue to grow within the town which the plan could support. However it is equally important that tourism is not promoted to such an extent that we become over-reliant on this one sector for economic growth. A balance is needed which protects the most sensitive environments, but allows tourism developments within and adjacent to the town.

Employment of young people

Retaining and attracting young people requires action across a range of issues and providing training and appropriate employment opportunities is important.

The plan should support development that is beneficial to attracting and retaining young people, uses local labour and offers training and apprenticeship schemes.

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Education

Access to first class educational facilities is the aspiration of every community and is essential to support future development in the town.

Some of the issues facing education are beyond the scope of the plan. What is in scope are the implications of choices made on the key matters of educational change in the town, on the future use of vacated school sites and on the dual use of new school and sports facilities at Greensfield.

The education objective of the plan is:

To ensure that development taking place in the town is supported by sufficient quantity of school places and a high quality of education provision.

Ensuring quality in education provision to support future development.

The quality of schools provision is a key consideration, not just for residents, but also for families considering a move and employers looking to establish or relocate a business. If Alnwick's population is to grow then schools must have the capacity to accept increased numbers and meet rising parental expectations.

All Alnwick schools, other than the recently refurbished St Paul's, suffer from serious problems linked to dilapidation of buildings, which are not fit for purpose and/or are in unsuitable locations creating problems of traffic congestion etc. The Duchess's Community High School, located on 2 separate sites, is to be replaced by a new school in recognition of its extreme unsuitability and dilapidation. It has embarked on a process of converting to academy status along with its federated schools.

It is intended that the new school will be sited on land at Greensfield, west of the Alnwick Cricket Club. Although funding appears to be sufficient for only a high school replacement, there have been calls for a single all age learning facility on this site, comprising at least the additional middle school components.

This would have the advantage of concentrating education provision on the southern edge of town where traffic can be more easily accommodated but the down side of concentrating everything there is that for pupils on the north of the town it makes travelling to school by sustainable means difficult. The plan needs to come to a view on whether the new site should be an all age education campus or not.

The future of school sites

Northumberland County Council owns the main High School site and the Lindisfarne Middle School site. These two sites together with the land at the Dukes School, owned by Northumberland Estates and the Bailiffgate Annexe buildings, present significant opportunities for re-use and redevelopment to the benefit of the town.

The sites could be developed for a variety of uses. The housing section of the plan suggests some of the school sites being used for housing but other uses including community services, business, leisure developments etc are all possibilities. However the school sites are currently composed of buildings and a substantial element of greenspace. Given the lack of publically accessible greenspace in the town a substantial part of these sites should be retained as public open space.

Dual use of facilities

Plans for providing a mixed use outdoor sports facility for Alnwick sporting clubs are being developed very close to the new school site. At the same time the existing schools currently provide venues for various community activities after school.

The Greensfield sports complex will initially provide facilities for football, tennis and hockey. It makes sense to capitalise on this proximity by allowing school students to use the facilities rather than duplicating provision and thereby share the burden of maintenance between community and school. Similarly, internal space at the new school should be offered to the community outside of school hours. The Neighbourhood Plan needs to encourage this dual use.

Other educational facilities

Education needs of the community don't start and end with education for the 5-18 age group. Nurseries and after-school care for younger children, youth clubs and facilities, special needs education facilities and adult education services are all present in the town.

The future of all these education-related facilities are vital in supporting development in Alnwick and Denwick and facilitating life-long learning and the plan should have a role to play in promoting their retention.



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The background of the entire page is a photograph of a street in Alnwick and Denwick. On the left, there are historic stone buildings with multiple windows and a 'HALIFAX' sign. The street is paved and has a pedestrian crossing. On the right, more buildings and a street lamp are visible. The sky is overcast.

Environment

This section looks at improving the pleasure we take in our environment, reducing our environmental impact, increasing biodiversity and making us more resilient to increasing fuel prices and climate change.

Dog-fouling, litter and recycling

Dog fouling and littering were the top reported environmental issues in the Alnwick and Denwick community consultation last year. Contact with dog waste can cause toxocarasis, resulting in blindness. Research by Keep Britain Tidy suggests that more bins in the right places help tackle littering and dog fouling.

We recycle 40% of waste in Northumberland, but this will not increase much further unless we make it easier to recycle materials like glass, cartons and textiles. There are sites at Lionheart Business Park, Greenwell Lane car park, and less well-used sites at Willowburn Sports Centre and the Co-op petrol station, but no supermarkets or other car parks provide recycling.

Warm homes and renewable energy

Carbon emissions from our homes are 23% higher in Northumberland than elsewhere in England and Wales. This is largely due to the number of older solid wall properties. A 2009 study found that 18% of Alnwick households lived in fuel poverty, whilst in Denwick the figure may be around 45%. These numbers will have increased with rising energy prices, and can be expected to increase further. The plan could make homes more energy-efficient through incentives, publicity, supporting schemes or through the planning system.

Currently about 1% of Alnwick and Denwick's energy use comes from local renewable sources, such as solar panels, wood burners and heat pumps. Planning permission is often required to install solar panels in conservation areas. The plan could come up with measures to encourage householders and businesses to adopt renewable energy.

Trees and nature reserves

Alnwick and Denwick have many attractive and historic trees along routes into the town and in the town centre which should be protected and preserved. Very few of our publicly accessible trees produce edible fruit. Predicted doubling of oil prices in 10 years and lifestyle changes in the developing world will make expensive food even more costly. The North-East is a net importer of fresh fruit, so more fruit trees in publicly-accessible space will help protect communities from rising prices. Grants for trees are available from many organisations, and tree planting has been carried out by volunteers from environmental groups, Alnwick Lions, Girl Guides and town councillors.

We also have very few local nature reserves. There are small reserves at Craster, Whittingham and Littlehoughton, but the total area falls far short of the government agency Natural England's standard, and there are no nature reserves at all in Alnwick or Denwick. To meet the standard, we need to set aside more land for nature conservation. This need not be expensive as wildlife can prosper on marginal land with no development value and can often be secured through agreement with landowners.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand cupping a mound of dark, rich soil. A small green seedling with two leaves is growing out of the center of the soil. To the right of the hand, a light-colored rectangular sign is visible, with the words 'GO GREEN' written on it in a green, hand-painted font. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting grass or foliage.

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Heritage & Culture

From any point of view, Alnwick with Denwick is undoubtedly a heritage focal point. In fact, heritage is a major part of the area's unique selling point. As the only Ducal town in the region and traditionally the County town of Northumberland, the area is of huge heritage importance in both the County and Region.

A unique combination of heritage features still remain from the area's Saxon, medieval, post-medieval, Victorian and 19th century past. In cultural terms this heritage and the buildings associated with it are the venues and backdrops to cultural events such as International Music Festival, Food Festival, Heritage Open Days and Northumbrian Gathering. The town is also fortunate in having the Playhouse, Bailiffgate Museum, a dedicated Town Crier and historic leisure transport (open-topped vintage tour buses and heritage railway).

Objectives to be achieved:

- To maximise the potential of heritage in Alnwick and Denwick to contribute to place shaping and support the visitor economy whilst encouraging local people to have a sense of pride, involvement and ownership.
- To improve how the historic town and village are set in the local landscape, refining their historic and urban design qualities and making them more people friendly, whilst at the same time, supporting and sustaining their vital service and tourist economies.
- To ensure that the area's historic and architectural design quality is celebrated through stories, descriptions and features in guides, visitor publications, newspapers and the electronic media to proactively raise the unique heritage profile of Alnwick and Denwick

HERITAGE

Heritage issues and options are:

The town and village in the landscape: Prepare a comprehensive visual appraisal of the quality of the historic landscape setting to guide future development.

Main roads as recognisable gateways into Alnwick and Denwick: Explore ways of improving the 'gateway' qualities of main roads into the town and village

Boundary of conservation areas: Review the boundary of Alnwick's conservation area and investigate a new conservation area at Denwick.

Threatened historic assets: Prepare plans to rescue threatened historic buildings and survey the area for other buildings that warrant protection.

New build in the historic town and village: Prepare policies and design guides to help new development fit into the historic environment.

Erosion of townscape character by incremental changes to building fabric: Consider additional planning controls to protect important detailed features in the conservation area.

Townscape character threatened by street clutter and poor floorscape treatment: Prepare schemes to remove clutter and to upgrade the design and condition of road and pavement surfaces.

Threatened trees inside and outside the conservation area: Assess the condition of important trees in the area and plan further protection, care or replacement, adding more street trees as enhancement.

Vital historic spaces: Prepare schemes to increase the use and decoration of quality urban spaces, particularly Alnwick Market Place.

Legibility and understanding of the townscape of town

and village: Improve the signage to better reflect the needs of users and prepare a comprehensive interpretation strategy to assist the better presentation and branding of the area.

Enhancement of historic town, village and landscape: Encourage better maintenance of private properties through information and grant aid; prepare plans for a comprehensive upgrading of important parts of the conservation area.

A comprehensive vision for a coherent, legible and sustainable townscape: To encourage an overall approach to be taken to the protection and enhancement of the historic centre, explore making Alnwick town centre an official 'Historic Core Zone'.

CULTURE

Culture issues and options are:

Specialised cultural buildings

Need to maintain steady and continuous funding: Seek comprehensive support for more sponsorship, improved fund-raising skills as well as revenue earning capacity.

Better accessibility to the attractions: Seek to improve transport links to venues and to improve the quality of local broadband to increase 'intellectual' access.

Poor condition and limited facilities: Encourage the improvement and repair of our major bookable buildings, several of which are in poor condition and have facilities below standard.

Cultural spaces and major cultural events

Managing Demand for more events using our limited cultural space: Encourage increased use of urban spaces and surrounding buildings for more festivals and increased use at weekends, in winter and in the evenings.

Other general cultural issues

Need to promote the cultural offer of the town and village in its entirety: Promote the improvement of signage from the A1 and branding and encourage more co-operation between attractions.

Development of creative industries in Alnwick and Denwick: Assess the nature and quantity of the area's creative industries and explore means of developing them.

Our 'Way of Life' could be better explained and promoted: Seek to better define the distinctiveness of our history and 'way of life' with a view to its better development and promotion.

Shortage of cultural facilities: Identify any cultural needs not yet served by present facilities and identify what future provision should be made to accommodate them.

Finally, heritage and cultural issues and options will be developed into recommended Proposals and Policies, as well as potential land allocations, to be incorporated into the plan to enhance the daily environment and the cultural lives of the communities of Alnwick and Denwick.



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ons For The Future

Alnwick & Denwick
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Housing

Alnwick is a popular and attractive place to live and retire to, accessible to Tyneside and with an enviable natural and built heritage which means there is a healthy demand for housing from outside the area as well as demand from an anticipated growth in the number of households locally.

This demand for housing historically has not been fully met by supply of new homes. This has led to an affordability problem in the plan area certainly since the early 2000's.

The Neighbourhood Plan will play a key role in ensuring that sufficient housing land is delivered to meet housing requirements identified in the Northumberland Core Strategy in the period up to 2025, and local housing needs identified by housing needs surveys. It will seek to guide new housing development to sustainable locations in Alnwick. It will also seek to target the use of previously developed land where available and at densities that make the most efficient use of land whilst respecting the character and scale of the surroundings. A broad mix of housing types suitable for different households will contribute to the creation of a mixed and sustainable community.

The objectives for housing in the plan are:

- To provide sufficient land to meet Alnwick and Denwick's housing requirements to 2025 particularly the need for affordable housing
- To provide a choice of sizes, types and tenure of quality housing particularly creating opportunities for young people and the elderly.

What level of housing growth should we be catering for?

It is difficult in the absence of a specific housing needs assessment for Alnwick to accurately predict the housing requirement for Alnwick and Denwick. However, in addition to meeting local housing needs we also need to provide for open market demand. Failure to do that will put more pressure on existing housing from retirees and other in-migrants making it less accessible to the local population. We need to agree a level of supply that will meet local needs and is sustainable in terms of Alnwick's social, economic and environmental context.

The County Core Strategy has looked at 3 options – maintaining existing housing levels; lower housing levels and a targeted increase. As evidence suggests that needs were not wholly met in the past, only a targeted increase is feasible. Working at the upper end of the Core Strategy range would require around 50 dwellings a year over the plan period – a total of 700-750 dwellings.

The distribution and location of housing

Alnwick is a sustainable location for housing as identified in the County Core Strategy. In the past previously developed land has contributed significantly to supply of land. However, this will reduce in the plan period although school sites when vacated will assist. Therefore more greenfield sites will be required. Constraints in terms of historic landscapes to the north of Alnwick mean that most of the development possibilities are to the south and east of the town.

Sites with planning permission and identified in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment will provide approximately 2/3rds of the required houses. Options of land at Greensfield –

(south of the town) and east of Allerburn Lea north of Alnmouth Road are the most feasible for development.

Ensuring choice of housing

As well as ensuring the quantity is right we have to ensure that the plan delivers choice in the size, type and tenure of housing. If the plan simply leaves delivery to the market to decide, the type of housing will be dictated by what sells most easily. It is suggested that the plan includes an enabling policy that encourages a range of provision.

Delivering affordability

The ratio of house prices to income remains at in excess of 8:1 and for the majority of the population housing is simply not affordable to buy. If not responded to the affordability problem could result in difficulties in retaining younger economically active population and ultimately in recruiting staff. The Plan will have to increase the amount of affordable housing and seek to deliver smaller housing units appealing to the younger and first time buyers. Affordable housing is usually secured through a subsidy to enable the price or rent of the house to be substantially lower than the prevailing market price or rent locally. To achieve this we are proposing that all sites over 10 dwellings should provide at least 35% of the dwellings as affordable. However, as a lot of housing sites are less than 10 units we are also proposing that all sites below 10 dwellings pay a financial contribution which will be applied by the County Council to the provision of affordable housing in Alnwick.

Delivering quality in housing

Quality of design in new housing has not been particularly successful in recent years especially in the larger estates built on the edge of the town. We have been more successful with smaller brownfield sites within the town. Housing in the plan period is likely to involve more housing on the edge of the town and we need to ensure this is designed and landscaped to a high standard to integrate it into the town and establish a 'sense of place'. We are proposing that the plan introduces a strong policy requiring design principles to be met and for housing to be built to recognised design standards.

Making more effective use of existing housing stock

Alnwick has a particular issue with quite a high number of vacant dwellings and under occupation of dwellings. If we can make more effective use of the housing we have it means we will need less new housing in the area. Ensuring a good range of housing will help ensure for example that people under occupying homes may 'downsize' to homes of a more appropriate size. We are also proposing however that the plan encourages the acquisition and refurbishment of vacant dwellings and residential space for example above shops in the town centre & makes this available for sale or rent.

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Options For The Future

Alnwick & Denwick
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Shopping & Town Centre

This section looks at improving the pleasure we take in our environment, reducing our environmental impact, increasing biodiversity and making us more resilient to increasing fuel prices and climate change.

OPEN

Context

Despite a challenging external environment:

- retailing in Alnwick is relatively vibrant and with a lower proportion of vacant shops than many other centres
- the retail mix in the Town Centre is fair with a good proportion of independent retailers
- Alnwick shops are estimated to benefit from just over 50% of the retail spend of local residents and those in the surrounding district.

Objectives

The following are proposed as the Town Centre & Retail objectives:

- to maintain the distinctive character of the Town Centre with a good/improving retail mix and a high proportion of independent retailers
- to sustain an enabling environment for retail which supports the promotion of the town as a leisure and tourist destination, preserves and enhances the heritage values of the town and makes best use of its historic assets including the Market Place
- to sustain and increase Alnwick's share of the retail spend of local residents and those living and doing business in the district (currently measured at 51%) both by tackling empty shops within the Town Centre and by

concentrating the development of 'out of town centre' retail in trade outlets

- to pursue the above objectives in a way which supports the plan's aims in respect of employment, housing, transport, tourism, heritage and community facilities.

Options

In summary, some of the key considerations involve:

- a Retail Development Master Plan to control retail development within the Town Centre and the growth of out of the town centre outlets, and
- a desired target within such a Plan for the ratio between retail shops and other commercial and leisure premises within the Town Centre
- policies to support and nurture the town's independent retailers
- the need for more prestige high street chains in Alnwick
- an integrated plan for the development of the Market Place, the Northumberland Hall, and the historic Town Centre
- proposals for greater pedestrian priority in the Town Centre
- proposals to address poor disabled access around the Town Centre
- a plan to link Alnwick's principal retail 'hubs' in the marketing and promotion of the town, or
- focus marketing and promotion only on the Town Centre.



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Options For The Future

Alnwick & Denwick
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Sport & Recreation

Alnwick is the centre for a wide range of sporting and recreation facilities which serve the town and the wider area. Many of these sports have club facilities based to the south of the Alnwick. These include Alnwick Rugby Football Club, Alnwick Cricket Club, Alnwick Castle Golf Club and Alnwick Town Football Club.

The major provider of indoor sports in the area is the Willowburn Sports and Leisure Centre, which was built in 2003 and is run by North Country Leisure. This is a quality venue with high levels of user satisfaction.

Whilst there is a good range of outdoor sports on offer for residents and visitors, many of the town's existing outdoor sports pitches or courts are of poor quality and some have inadequate changing facilities. Some of these issues could be addressed through the delivery of the Alnwick Sporting Club proposal at Greensfield which is proposed to include improved football pitches, tennis courts and an all-weather multi-sports synthetic pitch primarily for hockey but capable of being used for other sports.

A number of the schools in the town have significant areas of playing fields which are used for school sport and recreation (Duchess's Community High School, Dukes Middle School, Lindisfarne Middle School, St Paul's School and to a lesser degree the first schools). Community use of school playing fields could also be a future consideration to improve sports provision (see the education section).

There are seven existing children's play areas in the town, the most modern of which is at Swansfield Park. Some of the older play areas particularly to the south of Alnwick, consist of only one or two pieces of equipment and need to be replaced or upgraded.

Alnwick and Denwick are well below the national and proposed county standards for community open space, in particular parks and gardens, natural & semi-natural green space and amenity green space. As an example, the proposed county standard for parks and gardens is to have at least 2.14 hectares per 1,000 population; in Alnwick and Denwick

the figure is only 0.33 hectares per 1,000 population. On the edge of the town is Hulne Park which is open to the public for walking, on many days of the year without charge.



Both Hulne Park and The Pastures make significant contributions to the recreation offer and green infrastructure in Alnwick & Denwick, but are not freely available all the time. The plan could look to create more publicly accessible green space in the area.

There are 11 allotment sites in the plan area, these are provided by the Town Council and Northumberland Estates. Whilst the overall space allocated for allotments is above the county average, there are waiting lists and current turnover of allotments is low. Some allotments are badly maintained and of poor quality. We want to hear your views about the future need for allotments.



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Options For The Future

Alnwick & Denwick
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Tourism

Tourism has been important to Alnwick for a very long time. Alnwick Castle has been a high profile visitor attraction, and in recent years has expanded its opening hours, activities and visitor facilities. The success of The Alnwick Garden has increased the visitor numbers to Alnwick, putting the town on the map nationally as a tourism destination and stimulating the local economy.

Market context

The growth of tourism in and around Alnwick reflects demand from holidaymakers, packaged travel provided by coach and tour operators, business travel and visiting friends and relatives.

Tourism marketing bodies plan promotions in terms of target market segments and the main targets identified appear to require an emphasis on quality of product and service, environment and access to heritage and countryside.

Alnwick appears to have many of the relevant attractions, amenities and visitor-related services needed to function as an attractive and sustainable visitor destination, but has under-utilised off-peak capacity, and needs to address quality and accessibility if it is to realise its full potential.

Proposed tourism objectives:

- To establish Alnwick as a high quality and accessible year-round tourism destination
- To improve the range and quality of accommodation and other visitor-related services
- To encourage investment that will enhance the appeal of visitor attractions and activities
- To encourage visitors to spend more time in Alnwick Town Centre
- To encourage more visitors to walk, cycle and use public transport

Tourism in the economy

The thrust of national and county policy is to encourage tourism. The issue is particularly relevant for Alnwick as a key tourist destination in North Northumberland and it is likely that demands for tourism will continue to grow within the town.

However, it is equally important that tourism is not promoted to an extent that has negative effects due to over-reliance on one sector for economic growth, or that it drives out other sectors which contribute to the vitality of Alnwick as a market town and service sector.

The economic impact of tourism applies not only to businesses directly serving visitors, but also to the local supply chain and secondary economic impacts for example helping to support a wider range of shops, cafes, theatre, social facilities and services than might otherwise be sustainable for a town of this size.

The plan should support Alnwick's role as a viable and competitive tourism destination.

Tackling seasonality

Expanding capacity without addressing the seasonality issue will not help overall sustainability of the tourism

sector: put simply, the short season makes it harder to achieve break-even and the generation of sufficient revenue to re-invest in improvements to facilities, quality of service etc.

Initiatives to extend the length of the tourism season should be promoted in the plan where it can be achieved with no environmental or land use impact upon the town.

Locations for tourism development

Tourism development, both attractions and accommodation, should be encouraged to be located within or adjacent to Alnwick, as one of the county's recognised service centres, where it can complement other tourist businesses and services and enhance Alnwick's overall visitor appeal.

Future tourism developments should be assessed in terms of:

- Quality of design and fitness for purpose
- Contribution to the overall attractiveness of Alnwick as a tourism destination
- Ease of access to other visitor facilities and services in the town
- Contribution to extending the season
- Protecting the town's most sensitive environments

Access for all

Catering for the needs of visitors with mobility restrictions applies to a wide cross-section of society.

Addressing accessibility will shape Alnwick's long-term reputation and economic benefits derived from tourism. It will also play a big part in making the town more attractive to live and work in.

The plan should promote access improvements in order to be a welcoming and delightful place for all, including visitors with restricted mobility.

Signposting and interpretation

Visitors and local people need to be able to navigate their way around the town, find places of interest, car parks and other facilities. Linked to this is a desire to strengthen local links between retail and leisure facilities and to ensure that the Castle/Gardens connects strongly with the core of the town.

Interpretation of the historical and architectural features of the town is also desirable in helping to orientate visitors and enhance their enjoyment. Achieving this would also benefit local people and make moving around the town a more pleasurable experience.

Coach tours

At present Alnwick does not appear to be making the most of opportunities presented by the coach tour market mainly because of the poor coach parking facilities within the town centre. Coach parking, drop-off and pick-up provision should be improved to ensure that Alnwick is made attractive for short stay town centre related coach operators and their passengers.

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Transport

In working towards the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, it is essential that we have clear objectives to deliver the overall plan aim for transport.

These are:

- To improve access to homes, work and facilities for people and goods
- To enhance the viability and vitality of Alnwick town centre for residents and visitors
- To link residential, commercial, recreational and functional parts of the plan area
- To improve conditions for walking, cycling, wheelchair and buggy users
- To improve the provision of public transport
- To increase pedestrian priority and reduce car dependence
- To contribute to the development of a sustainable future

The transport issues of concern and options for their resolution are:

- **Issue:** Providing safe and attractive opportunities for all to walk within the limit of their ability.
Option principle: Develop a comprehensive network of attractive, well-maintained footpaths to link the residential, educational, commercial and industrial areas of Alnwick town and its central area.
Option example: Develop a sensitive pedestrian priority scheme within the town centre.
- **Issue:** Providing for and promoting cycling as a useful and practical way of getting about the plan area.
Option principle: Develop a well maintained, safe and signed cycle route network, mainly on existing streets, within Alnwick town and linking to surrounding villages.
- **Issue:** Improving the provision for public buses, community transport, private hire coaches and similar vehicles.
Option principle: Develop the Alnwick Bus Station as a modern, high quality transport hub serving the plan area.
Option example: Improve private hire bus and coach access and drop off/pick up and layover/parking provision.
- **Issue:** Supporting access, delivery and distribution of goods and services.
Option principle: Progressively improve traffic management schemes for necessary delivery and maintenance vehicles in a way that does not result in pavements being obstructed or damaged.
- **Issue:** Improving the functionality, viability and vitality of the Market Place.
Option principle: Recognise that market activity and community benefit require vehicles to be excluded from the Market Place other than at prescribed times and for prescribed purposes.
- **Issue:** Seeking to improve sustainable links to the world around Alnwick and Denwick.
Option principle: Develop better links with Alnmouth Station to improve longer distance travel options for business and leisure journeys.
- **Issue:** Enhancing the environment to improve the quality of life for all.

Option principle: Promote transport provision that generally enhances the health, wellbeing and quality of life for all.

Option example: Design changes in transport provision so that they contribute to an improvement of the streetscape that reconciles the need for up-to-date facilities with a well conserved town environment.

- **Issue:** Keeping transport infrastructure in a safe and attractive condition.

Option principle: Prepare and implement a five-year strategic plan for the repair of footpaths and pedestrian areas, road crossings and markings, eliminating the many safety hazards that currently exist for pedestrians.

- **Issue:** Managing traffic for the benefit of all, with priority for pedestrians.

Option principle: Review the traffic systems and signing that bring people into the town; devise unobtrusive systems that give real meaning to the 'shared space' concept throughout the town and its approaches.

Option example: Restrict vehicle speeds to a maximum of 20mph in the residential areas of Alnwick town.

- **Issue:** Providing parking and managing and preventing the abuse of parking facilities.

Option principle: Encourage considerate parking to protect green verges, keep access to premises clear and drop kerbs free. Enforce regulations and eliminate abuse throughout the plan area.

Option example: Investigate the commercial provision of an aesthetically acceptable decked or multi-storey car park.

- **Issue:** Using the planning process to help improve transport and travel now and in future.

Option principle: Establish a hierarchy of travel options from walking (most in need of encouragement and improved facilities) through cycling, public transport and freight to private car travel that would help deliver more sustainable transport across the plan area.

Clearly, a key constraint that will determine the practicality and implementation of the options eventually agreed for inclusion in the plan will be the availability of funding. However, some of the options identified do not require new funding but do require a more determined application and enforcement of existing regulations. For example, the lack of enforcement of existing parking regulations in the plan area has contributed not only to traffic congestion but also to unnecessary safety hazards for pedestrians and access problems for those with impaired mobility.

The evidence available on traffic in Alnwick is now outdated and is based on national growth forecasts that have not materialised. The Department for Transport statistics show that national traffic levels have remained essentially the same over the last decade but the situation locally might usefully be explored. Similarly, the widely differing views on the adequacy of parking provision should be investigated further.

The interaction of transport and travel with other aspects of life in the plan area is certain to require compromises to be reached if transport is to fulfil its role of supporting the local community and economy without damaging the environment.



www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk

Options For The Future

Alnwick & Denwick
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Alnwick and Denwick Consultation Bodies

Local Planning Authority

Karen Ledger
Northumberland County Council,
County Hall,
Morpeth,
Northumberland,
NE61 2EF.
Tel.: 01670623430
Email: karen.Ledger@northumberland.gov.uk

Adjoining Parish Councils

Mrs C Miller clerk to **Edlingham Parish Council**,
14 Addycombe Close,
Rothbury,
Northumberland,
NE65 7QF.
Tel.: 01669 621565
Email: rothburyparishcouncil@hotmail.com

Mrs A Smith clerk to **Eglingham Parish Council**,
25 Blakelaw Court,
Alnwick,
Northumberland,
NE66 1BY.
Tel.: 01665 603755
Email: amycartmell@gmail.com

Mrs E Taylor clerk to **Lesbury Parish Council**,
Rivendell,
Steppey Lane,
Lesbury,
Alnwick,
NE66 3PU.
Tel.: 01665 830040
Email: lesburyparishclerk@gmail.com

Mrs E Taylor clerk to **Longhoughton Parish Council**,
Rivendell,
Steppey Lane,
Lesbury,
Alnwick,
NE66 3PU.
Tel.: 01665 830040
Email: parishclerk@hotmail.com

Ms W Pattison clerk to **Rennington Parish Council**,
11 Rock Village,
Rock,
Alnwick,
NE66 3SD.
Tel.: 01665 579137
Email: wpdenwick@btinternet.com

Miss CM Miller clerk to **Hedgeley Parish Council**,
14 Addycombe Close,
Rothbury,
Northumberland,
NE65 7QF.
Tel.: 01669 621565
Email: Hedgeleyparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

Coal Authority

Planning and Local Authority Liaison,
The Coal Authority,
200 Lichfield Lane,
Berry Lane,
Mansfield,
Nottinghamshire,
NG18 4RG.
Email: planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk

Homes and Communities Agency

Homes and Communities Agency,
St George's House,
Kingsway,
Team Valley,
Gateshead,
NE11 0NA.

Natural England

Consultation Service,
Natural England,
Hornbeam House,
Electra Way,
Crewe Business Park,
Crewe,
Cheshire,
CW1 6GJ.
Email: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

The Environment Agency

Planning Consultations,
Environment Agency,
Tyneside House,
Skinnerburn Road,
Newcastle Business Park,
Newcastle upon tyne,
NE4 7AR.

Email: planning.nane@environment-agency.gov.uk

Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England

Mr Alan Hunter (Regional Planner)
English Heritage,
41-44 Sandgate,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE1 3 JF.

Email: alan.hunter@english-heritage.org.uk

Network Rail Infrastructure Limited

Network Rail Infrastructure Limited,
George Stephenson House,
Toft Hill,
York,
YO1 6JT.

The Highways Agency

Asset Development Team - Yorkshire and North East,
Highways Agency,
Lateral,
8 City Walk,
Leeds,
LS11 9 AT.

Email: [planningYNE @highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:planningYNE@highways.gsi.gov.uk)

The Marine Management Organisation

Ms Angela Atkinson
PO Box 1275,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
Tyne and Wear,
NE99 5BN.

Tel. 01913762589

Email: Angela.Atkinson@marinemanagement.org.uk

Relevant Primary Care Trust

Steph Edusei (Strategic Head of Corporate Affairs)
NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group,
County Hall,
Morpeth,

Northumberland,
NE61 2 EF.
Tel.: 01670 335 161
Email: stephanie.edusei@nhs.net

Any person to whom a licence has been granted under section 6(1)(b) and (c) of the Electricity Act 1989.

Northern Powergrid,
Records and Information,
Manor House,
Station Road,
Penshaw,
Houghton le Spring,
County Durham,
DH4 7LA.

National Grid,
National Grid House,
Warwick,
Warwickshire,
CV34 6DA.

Any a person to whom a licence has been granted under section 7(2) of the Gas Act 1986.

Northern Gas Networks,
1100 Century Way,
Thorp Business Park,
Colton,
Leeds,
LS15 8TU.

Sewerage undertaker

New Development Team (Planning),
Northumbrian Water Limited,
Leat House,
Pattinson Road,
Washington,
Tyne and Wear,
NE38 8LB.

Water undertaker

New Development Team (Planning),
Northumbrian Water Limited,
Leat House,
Pattinson Road,
Washington,
Tyne and Wear,
NE38 8LB.

Any person to whom the electronic communications code applies

Mono Consultants,
48 St. Vincent Street,
Glasgow,
Lanarkshire,
G2 5TS.

Any person who owns or controls electronic communications apparatus situated in any part of the area of the local planning authority

Avonline,
42 Ashton Vale Road,
Ashton Vale,
Bristol,
BS3 2AX.
Email: info@avonline.co.uk
Office: 0117 953 1111
Fax: 0117 953 0307

British Telecommunications Plc.,
Openreach Newsites PP 4AB,
21-23 Carliol Square,
Newcastle CTE,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE1 1BB.

Cybermoor,
Town Hall,
Front Street,
Alston,
CA9 3RF.
Tel.:01434 382808
Email: info@cybermoor.org.uk

Everything Everywhere Limited,
Hatfield Business Park,
Hertfordshire,
Hatfield,
AL10 9BW.

Hutchinson 3G UK Limited,
Star House,
20 Grenfell Road,
Maidenhead,
Berkshire,
SL6 1EH.

Orange Personal Communications Services Ltd.,
Media House,
Bartley Wood Business Park,
Hook,
Hampshire,
RG27 9UP.

T Mobile (UK) Limited (Property),
Hatfield Business Park,
Frobisher Way,
Hertfordshire,
Hatfield,
AL10 9SL.

Telefonica UK Limited,
260 Bath Road,
Berkshire,
Slough,
SL1 4DX.

Virgin Media Limited,
St James Court,
Great Park Road,
Almondsbury Park,
Bradley Stoke,
Bristol,
BS32 4QJ.

Vodafone Limited,
Vodafone House,
The Connection,
Berkshire,
Newbury,
RG14 2FN.

Wildcard Networks,
Reliance House,
Skinnerburn Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE4 7AN.

Community Facilities/Education.

Children's Services

Daljit Lally

Executive Director of Wellbeing & Community Health Services (including Children's Services)
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

Maurice Hall

Head Teacher
Duchess's Community High School
Howling Lane
Alnwick
NE66 1DH
admin@dchs-alnwick.org

Mrs S Hall

Acting Head Teacher
Lindisfarne Middle School
Lindisfarne Road
Alnwick
NE66 1AX
Admin@lindisfarne.northumberland.sch.uk

Dawn Morton

Head Teacher
The Dukes Middle School
Hope House Lane
Alnwick
NE66 1UN
admin@dukes.northumberland.sch.uk

Mrs J. E. Smith

Head Teacher
Swansfield Park First School
The Avenue,
Alnwick
Northumberland,
NE66 1UL
admin@alnicksouth.northumberland.sch.uk

Mr Gavin Johnston

Head Teacher
St Michael's C of E First School
Howling Lane
Alnwick
Northumberland
admin@stmichaelsalnwick.northumberland.sch.uk

Maria Wilson

Head Teacher
St Paul's Federation of Schools

South Road
Alnwick,
Northumberland
NE66 2NU
admin@stpaulsrcvafirst.northumberland.sch.uk

Colin Bradshaw

Head Teacher
Barndale House School
Howling Lane
Alnwick
Northumberland
NE66 1DQ
Admin@barndalehouse.northumberland.sch.uk

S. Stafford

Manager
The Pottergate Centre
Howling Lane
Alnwick
NE66 1DJ
pottergate.centre@btconnect.com

Cathy Jacobs

Lindisfarne Adult Learning Centre
Lindisfarne Road,
Alnwick,
NE66 1AX

Hannah Moeini

Centre Manager
Alnwick Community Centre
Howling Lane
Alnwick
NE66 1DJ
hannah.moeini@northumberland.gov.uk

Steve Barrigan

North Area Senior Practitioner
Youth Services
Alnwick Community Centre
Howling Lane
Alnwick
NE66 1DJ
steve.barrigan@northumberland.gov.uk

Jacqui Gibb

Manager
Alnwick SureStart Childrens Centre
Howling Lane
Alnwick
NE66 1DJ
Jaqui.Gibb@northumberland.gov.uk

Chair of Trustees

Lionheart Radio
The Centre
27 Fenkle Street
Alnwick
Northumberland
NE66 1HW
studio@lionheartradio.com

Jo Potts

Alnwick Playhouse
Bondgate Within
Alnwick
NE66 1PQ
info@alnwickplayhouse.co.uk

Deb Still

Age UK Northumberland
The Round House
Lintonville Parkway
Ashington
Northumberland
NE63 9JZ
info@ageuk-northumberland.org.uk

Lisa Lowes

Manager
Rainbow Day Nursery (Alnwick) Ltd,
Northumberland Street,
Alnwick
Northumberland
NE66 1LT
info@rainbowdn.co.uk

Tony Brown

Practise Manager
The Bondgate Practice
Infirmary Close
Alnwick
Northumberland
NE66 2NL

Dr C J Stevenson

Infirmary Drive Medical Group
The Consulting Rooms
Infirmary Drive
Alnwick
Northumberland
NE66 2NR

David Francis

Director, Community Action Northumberland
UNIUN Enterprise Building,
Front Street,
Pegswood,

Morpeth,
Northumberland.
NE61 6RG
davidfrancis@ca-north.org.uk

Julia Lyford

Company Secretary
Northumberland Community Development Network
Bell View Resource Centre.
33 West Street.
Belford.
Northumberland
NE70 7QB
julia@ncdn.org

Francis Lyford

SPLINTER Group
13,Cawledge View
Alnwick
Northumberland
NE66 1BH
f.lyford@aol.com

Nicola Day

The Fusiliers Museum of Northumberland,
Abbots Tower,
Alnwick Castle,
Alnwick,
Northumberland,
NE66 1NG
activitiesfusnorthld@aol.co.uk

Sandra Green

Alnwick & District CAB
First Floor
Valuation Office Building
Wagonway Road
Alnwick
NE66 1QL
alnwickcab@alnwick.f9.co.uk

Chris Friend/Rev. David Archer

Alnwick Baptist Church
Lisburn Street,
Alnwick,
Northumberland.
NE66 1UR
info@alnwickbaptist.org.uk

Joan Grindod-Helmn

Minister
St James's URC
St James's Church Centre
Pottergate

Alnwick
NE66 1JW
minister@urc-stjames-alnwick.org.uk

Revd Keith Osborn/Revd Pauline Fellows

Alnwick Methodist Church
Chapel Lane,
Alnwick,
Northumberland
NE66 1XT

Fr Phil Carroll

St Paul's R.C. Church
3, Prudhoe Villas,
Alnwick,
NE66 1UP
stpaulsalnwick@aol.com

Rev. Paul Scott/ Rev. Julie Myles

St Michaels Church,
Bailliffgate,
Alnwick,
Northumberland
NE66 1LY
stmichaelandstpaul@btconnect.com

Paul Kiddell

North Country Leisure
Willowburn Sports & Leisure Centre
Willowburn Avenue
Alnwick

The Secretary

Alnwick & District Sports Council
c/o Willowburn Sports & Leisure Centre
Alnwick

Transport Groups

AGE UK NORTJUMBERLAND

The Round House
Lintonville Parkway, ASHINGTON, NE63 9JZ
Email: info@ageuk-northumberland.org.uk

ALN VALLEY RAILWAY

Chairman: Martin Robinson, Email: toftsbank@btinternet.com
Secretary: Mark Hayton, Email: secretary@alnvalleyrailway.co.uk

ALNMOUTH RAIL USER GROUP

Chairman: Murray Davies, E: murray_davies@btinternet.com
Secretary: Jean Barr, E: jeanwbarr@btinternet.com

BUS OPERATORS**ARRIVA PLC, ARRIVA NORTH EAST**

Admiral Way, Doxford International Business Park, SUNDERLAND, SR3 3XP

TRAVELSURE

Station Road, BELFORD, Northumberland, NE70 7DT

Email: travelsure@travelsure.co.uk

PUBLIC TRANSPORT,

Sustainable transport section; Northumberland County Council

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**NEED Ltd**

Alnwick Fire Station,

South Road, ALNWICK, NE66 2PA

Email: info@needltd.co.uk

Coordination: Northumberland County Council**CONFEDERATION OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT** (Private coach trade association)

Regional Manager – Northern: David Holding,

Email: davidh@cpt-uk.org Land and Business A

COUNTRY LAND AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION LIMITED

North Office: Aske Stables, Aske, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 5HG,

Email: north@cla.org.uk

Director North, Dorothy Fairburn; Email: dorothy.fairburn@cla.org.uk

CTC, THE NATIONAL CYCLING CHARITY

Secretary (North East): Heather Evans, Email: heatherevans.ctc@virgin.net

FREIGHT TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

Northern Region: Malcolm Bingham,

Email: mbingham@fta.co.uk

LIVING STREETS

Tyneside Area: Colin Green,

Email: green43@talktalk.net

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION

Northumberland County Adviser: Richard Potts,

Email: richard.potts@nfu.org.uk

NECTAR (North East Combined Transport Activists Roundtable)

Dr N Best, Policy Officer, 24 Northbourne Avenue, MORPETH, NE61 1JG

Email: nickel@globalnet.co.uk

NORTHUMBERLAND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Headquarters

West Hartford Business Park, CRAMLINGTON, Northumberland, NE23 3JP

Email: FireReception@northumberland.gov.uk

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Headquarters

North Road, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 0BL

PASSENGER FOCUS

Passenger Team Director: David Sidebottom,

Email: david.sidebottom@passengerfocus.org.uk

RAC FOUNDATION,

89-91 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5HS. Tel: 020 7747 3445.

Email: info@racfoundation.org

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

Secretary, Alnwick Group: Linda Law,

Email: ralmlaw@tiscali.co.uk

ROYAL MAIL

Group Communications Royal Mail Group, 100 Victoria Embankment, LONDON, EC4Y 0HQ

<http://www.royalmailgroup.com>

Alnwick Delivery Office

Greensfield Estate, Willowburn Avenue, ALNWICK, NE66 2DD

SUSTRANS

North East, Daniel Sheppard,

Email: Daniel.Sheppard@sustrans.org.uk

TRAIN OPERATING COMPANIES**NORTHERN RAIL**

Client & Stakeholder Manager: Pete Myers, Email: Pete.Myers@northernrail.org

CROSSCOUNTRY TRAINS

Head of Communications: Richard Gibson, Email: Richard.Gibson@crosscountrytrains.co.uk

EAST COAST MAIN LINE COMPANY

Head of Communications: Neal Smith, Email: neal.smith@eastcoast.co.uk

Environmental Groups**Alnwick Wildlife Group –**

Colin Scrutton,

2, The Rise, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE3 4LT

Northumberland Wildlife Trust –

Duncan Hutt,

Garden House, St Nicholas Park,

Jubilee Road, Gosforth,

Newcastle-upon-Tyne,

NE3 3XT

Aln Valley Railway Trust -

Lionheart Railway Station,

Lionheart Enterprise Park,
Alnwick Northumberland NE66 2EZ

Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth –

Lisa Bellamy,
Swansfield Stables,
Alnwick, NE66 1EJ

Alnwick in Bloom –

Elizabeth Jones,
30 Upper Howick Street,
Alnwick, NE66 1UZ

Economic/Tourism Contacts

Northumberland Estates

Colin Barnes
Alnwick Castle, Estates Office
Alnwick

Alnwick Chamber of Trade –

Carlo Bagioni,
7-9 Market St,
Alnwick NE66 1SS

Alnwick Markets

c/o Local Living,
27 Fenkle Street
Alnwick NE66 1HW

Alnwick Civic Society

c/o Peter Ennor,
Prudhoe Street
Alnwick

Councillors on Alnwick Town Council and Denwick Parish Council

Residents - Community Partnership

Sandra Renforth	76 Allerburn Lea	NE66 2NQ
Anne Shilton	12 St Georges Cres, Alnwick	NE66 1AY
MR N A ADDY	8 PRUDHOE STREET	
MR N A ADDY	8 PRUDHOE STREET	NE661UW
Gary Easton	22 Westgate House, Alnwick	NE66 1XP
Mrs K Swinbank	62, Chapel Lands, Alnwick, Northumberland	NE66 1ER
	2, The Steadings, Christon Bank, Alnwick, Northumberland	NE66 1HW
Julie Shackleton		
Bruce Hewison + Jeannette Hewison	West Acre House, West Acres, Alnwick	NE66 2QA
Mrs Elizabeth Jones	30 Upper Howick Street Alnwick	NE66 1UZ

Mr G Hall	15 Bridge Street, Alnwick, Northumberland	NE66 1RY
Mrs Diane Mortimer	14 Merchants Gardens, Alnwick	NE66 1BZ
Victoria Ballan	8 Percy Tce, Alnwick	NE66 1AF
Mrs Ruth Dickinson	17 Denwick Village	NE66 3RE
Steven Kerr	50 Arkle Court, Alnwick	NE66 1BS
Mr Kenneth Burns	6 Baliffgate Court, Baliffgate, Alnwick	NE66 1LY
David Farrar	50 Swansfield Park Road, Alnwick	NE66 1AR
Ms Jennifer Macdowell	2 Beaconsfield Terrace, Alnwick	NE66 1BX
Mr Ron Bernstein	4a Ogle Terrace, Alnwick	NE66 1XS
S Bucknell	6 Dodds Lane, Alnwick	NE66 1AD
Celie Nicol-Meap	6 Long Row, Embleton Mill	NE66 3DS
Barbara Woodward	102 Windsor Gardens, Alnwick,	NE66 1LR
Penelope N. Perkins	6 Ravensmede	NE66 2PX
Mr D George	35, Upper Howick st, Alnwick	NE66 1UZ
R.G Alcock	15 Sprignfield Park, Alnwick	NE66 2NH
David Lovie	2 Chapel Lane, Alnwick, Northumberland,	NE66 1XT
Sheila Cartwright	24 Upper Howick Street, Alnwick	NE66 1UZ
Prof and Mrs R E Allsop	1 Prudhoe Street, Alnwick	NE66 1UW
Maria Manion	69 Allerburn Lea, Alnwick	NE66 2NQ
Paul Russell	4 Allerburn Lea, Alnwick	NE66 2NJ
Katherine Williams	Crag View Cottage, Alnmouth Road, Alnwick	NE66 2QG
Philip Angier	Luraine House, Percy Terrace	NE66 1AF
Mrs E Angier	Lovaine House, Percy Terrace, Alnwick	NE66 1AF
Mrs Brenda Burdis	32 The Dunterns, Alnwick	NE66 1AN
David Nicholson	24 Simonside View, Rothbury	NE65 7YQ
Simon Holmes	1 Narrowgate Court, Alnwick	NE66 1HL
Iris Symmonds	109 Allerburn Lea, Alnwick	NE66 2QP
Janis Crook	6 Bondgate Within, Alnwick	NE66 1PP
Kate Laverick	14 Springfield, Longhoughton, Alnwick	NE66 3NT
James Westmell	3 Castle Terrace, Warkworth	NE65 0UP
Freya Stone	School House, Dispensary Street, Alnwick	NE66 1LS
Kieran Renner	c/o Gallery Youth, 5 Coronation Crescent, Belford	NE70 7NU
Mr M A Broch	20 Allerburn Lea, Alnwick	NE66 2NJ
Mr & Mrs Waterstone	174 Allerburn Lea Alnwick	NE66 2QR

Alnwick Community Partnership

18th December 2012

Minutes of Event

Present:

Martin Harrington	Town Council
Brian Watson	Abbeyfield
Pat Holt	Resident
Jabin Cussins	Cussins Ltd
Philip Angier	Local Living
Steph Linnell	George F White
David Lovie	Alnwick Civic Society
Ian McRae	Gallery Youth
Sue Patience	Gallery Youth
Bill Grisdale	Town Council
Alan Symmonds	Town Council
Gordon Castle	Town Council
Hannah Moeini	Alnwick Community Centre
Bill Batey	Clerk Town Council
Peter Biggers	Consultant for the neighbourhood plan
John Taylor	Denwick Parish Council
Kevin Bartlett	County Council
Charlotte Colver	County Council
Martin Murphy	Transport lead

The meeting was opened by Alan Symmonds, Mayor of Alnwick who introduced the new “Options for the Future” document

Peter Biggers then gave an update on progress during the last 6 months that had led to the production of the document. It was noted that some of the proposals would not form part of the final plan, but would be included in an accompanying community action plan

The questionnaire was a pared down version of the plan with opportunities for people to add further comments

Sue patience then described how the community was to be engaged during the consultation period.

- Using market stalls (25th January, 9th or 16th February)
- Leaflet in the Cryer in January to all Alnwick households, Denwick delivery by hand
- Christmas market stall
- From the first questionnaire a demographic of respondents had been produced and gaps identified. These gaps will be filled by targeted work e.g. sheltered accommodation (elderly), disability groups (Barnsdale), young people

- There will also be more open meetings, radio broadcasts and the web site.
- Any other ideas to widen the consultation should be sent to Sue

There was then an opportunity to look around the display boards and discuss issues with topic leads.

Next Steps:

- Consultation returns
- Analysis
- Draft Plan (with advice from the county Council and Locality (consultants), to ensure that there is consensus on the plan and it is not controversial/in conflict with other plans
- Examination in public by an independent inspector
- Referendum

Throughout the process the web site will be used to publish all relevant documents.

Timescale:

Autumn 2013 for the examination in public

Early 2014 for the referendum

Alnwick & Denwick

Neighbourhood Plan: Options for the future.

Download version for input of paper copies

Survey was completed 18 Feb

N/A

1.	If you would like to be kept informed about the developing neighbourhood plan for Alnwick and Denwick, please give your contact details below:
Name:	168 (100.0%)
	162 (100.0%)
Address	
Post code:	293 (100.0%)
Telephone number:	107 (100.0%)
Email	89 (100.0%)

2.	Please state which age group you belong to:
51 (12.0%)	<i>Under 18</i>
8 (1.9%)	<i>18 - 24</i>
21 (5.0%)	<i>25 - 34</i>
84 (19.8%)	<i>35 - 54</i>
97 (22.9%)	<i>55 - 64</i>
163 (38.4%)	<i>65 or over</i>

3

As a start we would like your views on the plan aims set out in the accompanying document.

Do the plan aims clearly express what you think should be the aspirations for the neighbourhood plan?

319 (89.6%) Yes

37 (10.4%) No

If no, please explain any changes you would wish to make

34 (100.0%)

4

CYF 1 Information, advice and support

Where the opportunities arise in the town centre, should Information, Advice and Support services be located together?

465 (85.0%) Yes

30 (5.5%) No

52 (9.5%) Don't have an opinion

5

CYF 2 Community Building

The area has a wide range of community buildings, which should be retained and improved to provide better services.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
	162 (29.5%)	307 (55.9%)	59 (10.7%)	20 (3.6%)	1 (0.2%)

6

CYF 3 Services for young people

Will the proposed new High School site at Greensfield provide a good location to base provision of youth work and facilities for young people?

365 (67.0%) Yes

94 (17.2%) No

86 (15.8%) Don't have an opinion

7	CYF 4 Youth shelter
Should an area within the town be identified and developed to provide a youth shelter (to include seating, lighting and open wifi access)?	
358 (65.4%)	Yes
124 (22.7%)	No
65 (11.9%)	Don't have an opinion

8	CYF 5 Services for older people
Is the extent and range of services provided for older people adequate for the next 10 to 15 years?	
169 (31.0%)	Yes
244 (44.7%)	No
133 (24.4%)	Don't have an opinion

9	CYF6 Public Toilets
Should the plan provide for improved and fully accessible public toilet facilities?	
514 (93.3%)	Yes
20 (3.6%)	No
17 (3.1%)	Don't have an opinion

10	CYF 7 Community communication and awareness				
Communication methods should be improved by developing a local information website for Alnwick alongside other forms of communication.					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
	150 (27.4%)	266 (48.6%)	109 (19.9%)	19 (3.5%)	3 (0.5%)

11	Economy and Employment				
EMP 1 The level of economic growth					
The plan should support greater economic growth than we have seen in recent times, but at a sustainable level.					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
	187 (34.7%)	280 (51.9%)	63 (11.7%)	7 (1.3%)	2 (0.4%)

12. EMP 2 The location of employment generating development eg offices, warehouses and industry

Should the Plan (tick one box only)

- 199 (36.4%) *Provide employment land principally east of the A1 near to existing employment sites such as the Lionheart Estate?*
- 0 (0.0%) *Provide employment land principally east*
- 0 (0.0%) *of the A1 near to existing employment sites such as the Lionheart Estate?*
- 47 (8.6%) *Provide employment land south of the town at Greensfield?*
- 32 (5.9%) *In neither location?*
- 268 (49.1%) *In both locations?*

13. EMP 3 Existing employment sites eg offices, warehouses and industry

Should the Plan (tick one box only)

- 119 (22.0%) *Seek to retain existing employment sites for office, industrial, and storage uses?*
- 423 (78.0%) *Allow these sites to have wider uses, providing they lead to the retention /creation of employment and investment in the fabric and infrastructure of these areas?*

14. EMP 4 South Road

South Road should be identified as an area for new commercial development with improved linkages between the town centre and Willowburn.

		Neither Agree nor disagree		Strongly Disagree	
Strongly Agree	Agree				
94 (17.5%)	269 (50.2%)	118 (22.0%)	47 (8.8%)	8 (1.5%)	

15. EMP 5 Employment of young people

Should the Plan (tick all that apply)

- 364 (68.0%) *Have a positive policy of supporting development which provides jobs for young people?*
- 396 (74.0%) *Encourage the use of local labour and training schemes within new developments?*
- 402 (75.1%) *Encourage the provision of facilities for further education, training and apprenticeships?*

16. Education**ED 1 New schools**

Do you think the site identified at Greensfield for the development of a new High School should also be considered for an all age education village involving relocated middle schools?

251 (46.6%) *Yes*

193 (35.8%) *No*

95 (17.6%) *Don't have an opinion*

17. ED 2 Future use of vacated school sites

What would you like to see the vacated school sites used for? (tick all that apply)

138 (25.5%) *Housing*

176 (32.5%) *Sport and recreation facilities*

162 (29.9%) *Community facilities*

101 (18.6%) *Business and employment generating uses*

179 (33.0%) *Maintained as green space*

252 (46.5%) *A mixture of these uses*

18. ED 3 Dual use of facilities

The plan should require new school buildings and the proposed outdoor sports complex at Greensfield to be operated on a dual use basis to the benefit of both schools and community

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor disagree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
213 (39.3%)	257 (47.4%)	54 (10.0%)	15 (2.8%)	3 (0.6%)

19. ED 4 Other educational facilities

The plan should promote the retention of facilities and services supporting statutory education, special needs education and lifelong learning and encourage development required to sustain these services.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor disagree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
165 (31.4%)	304 (57.8%)	52 (9.9%)	5 (1.0%)	0 (0.0%)

20.

Environment

ENV1 Dog-fouling and litter

Would you support the provision of appropriately designed bins in areas where there is a problem with dog-fouling and litter?

521 (95.2%) Yes

13 (2.4%) No

13 (2.4%) Don't have an opinion

21.

ENV 2 Recycling

Would you support more town centre sites for recycling glass, textiles and cartons to help improve recycling rates?

389 (71.6%) Yes

114 (21.0%) No

40 (7.4%) Don't have an opinion

22.

ENV 3 Energy efficiency

Should the neighbourhood plan promote more energy efficient homes?

461 (84.6%) Yes

35 (6.4%) No

49 (9.0%) Don't have an opinion

23.

ENV 4 Renewable energy

Should the plan encourage local homes and businesses to generate their own energy from renewable sources?

385 (70.8%) Yes

78 (14.3%) No

81 (14.9%) Don't have an opinion

24.

ENV 5 A Trees in the town

A The plan should protect trees in the town centre and those lining approach roads

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither Agree nor disagree

disagree

Strongly Disagree

313 (57.6%)

170 (31.3%)

47 (8.7%)

11 (2.0%)

2 (0.4%)

25. ENV 5 B Trees in the town

Would you support a requirement that at least 50% of trees planted in publicly accessible green spaces should be fruit trees?

181 (33.4%) *Yes*

213 (39.3%) *No*

148 (27.3%) *Don't have an opinion*

26. ENV 6 Nature conservation

Should the plan identify local nature reserves in areas of nature conservation interest?

440 (82.2%) *Yes*

39 (7.3%) *No*

56 (10.5%) *Don't have an opinion*

27. Heritage and Culture**HC 1 Alnwick conservation area**

The boundaries of Alnwick Conservation Area should be reviewed with a view to its extension.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor disagree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
99 (18.1%)	199 (36.4%)	187 (34.2%)	49 (9.0%)	12 (2.2%)

28. HC 2 Conservation in Denwick

Denwick village should be considered for designation as a conservation area.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor disagree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
64 (11.8%)	203 (37.4%)	232 (42.7%)	32 (5.9%)	12 (2.2%)

29. HC 3 Heritage buildings

The plan should propose a locally determined list of lesser heritage buildings.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor disagree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
68 (12.5%)	248 (45.7%)	174 (32.0%)	45 (8.3%)	8 (1.5%)

30

HC 4 Control of design

The plan should include design policies and promote design guides to protect the character of our historic buildings and areas.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor disagree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
152 (27.9%)	268 (49.3%)	93 (17.1%)	24 (4.4%)	7 (1.3%)

31

HC 5 Planning control

The plan should explore the need for additional planning controls to prevent small scale damage to the character of our historic buildings and townscapes.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor disagree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
137 (25.2%)	253 (46.6%)	106 (19.5%)	40 (7.4%)	7 (1.3%)

32

HC 6 Public space

The plan should encourage the better management and maintenance of Alnwick Conservation Area's public spaces and floorscapes.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor disagree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
180 (33.1%)	297 (54.6%)	58 (10.7%)	4 (0.7%)	5 (0.9%)

33

HC 7 Signage and street furniture

The plan should encourage the removal of unnecessary signs and other street furniture in the town centre.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor disagree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
201 (37.0%)	211 (38.9%)	95 (17.5%)	29 (5.3%)	7 (1.3%)

34

HC 8 Culture

A The plan should ensure that the existing buildings and organisations supporting cultural activities have a viable future.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor disagree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
169 (31.2%)	283 (52.3%)	72 (13.3%)	14 (2.6%)	3 (0.6%)

35.	HC 8 Culture					
	B The plan should identify any cultural needs currently not met and determine what viable provision should be made to meet those needs.					
		<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor disagree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
		102 (18.9%)	262 (48.6%)	149 (27.6%)	19 (3.5%)	7 (1.3%)

36.	Housing	
	HSG 1 Quantity of housing	
	Do you agree that the plan should provide about 50 new dwellings per year up to 2025 – i.e. a total of about 700 new dwellings?(tick one box only)	
221 (40.5%)	<i>Yes – that sounds about right</i>	
203 (37.2%)	<i>No – it's too many</i>	
40 (7.3%)	<i>No – it's too few</i>	
82 (15.0%)	<i>Don't have an opinion</i>	

37.	HSG 2 Location of housing	
	A Do you agree we should continue to prioritise previously developed land for housing?	
433 (79.4%)	<i>Yes</i>	
54 (9.9%)	<i>No</i>	
58 (10.6%)	<i>Don't have an opinion</i>	

38.	HSG 2 Location of housing	
	B Do you agree we should also prioritise other available and developable sites for housing not in use as parks and gardens - for example school sites once vacated?	
315 (58.3%)	<i>Yes</i>	
163 (30.2%)	<i>No</i>	
62 (11.5%)	<i>Don't have an opinion</i>	

39. HSG 2 Location of housing**C Additionally would you support further housing development:- (tick one box only)**

- 122 (23.3%) *South of the town at Greensfield?*
 78 (14.9%) *East of Allerburn Lea and Westacres?*
 177 (33.8%) *In both locations?*
 147 (28.1%) *In neither location?*

40. HSG 3 Housing choice**The plan should promote housing choice by encouraging a range of size, type and tenure of dwellings.**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
166 (30.9%)	289 (53.7%)	70 (13.0%)	10 (1.9%)	3 (0.6%)

41. HSG 4 Affordable housing**Do you support the following to help deliver affordable housing: (tick all that apply)**

- 258 (53.8%) *A requirement for sites larger than 10 dwellings to provide affordable housing as part of the development?*
 270 (56.3%) *A requirement that at least 35% of the total dwellings on larger sites are affordable homes?*
 210 (43.8%) *A tariff system so that the developer of smaller housing developments (including individual houses) contributes funds towards the provision of affordable housing?*

42. HSG 5 Housing design**Do you think the Plan should: (tick all that apply)**

- 310 (60.9%) *Introduce a strong policy setting out principles of good sustainable design?*
 415 (81.5%) *Make it a requirement that all new housing development should be built to a recognised high standard of design such as Building for Life and The Code for Sustainable Homes*

43. HSG 6 Existing stock**The Plan should encourage the refurbishment of vacant housing, in particular vacant dwellings over shops in the town centre.**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
274 (50.5%)	224 (41.3%)	40 (7.4%)	5 (0.9%)	0 (0.0%)

44.

Town Centre & Retail

TCR 1The mix of shops, services and leisure facilities

What is your opinion about the present mix of shops, services and leisure facilities serving Alnwick?

	<i>Need Less</i>	<i>About Right</i>	<i>Need More</i>
Retail shops	21 (3.9%)	188 (34.6%)	335 (61.6%)
Services(banks, solicitors, travel agents, etc)	69 (12.8%)	438 (81.6%)	30 (5.6%)
Cafes/bars/restaurants	178 (33.1%)	308 (57.2%)	52 (9.7%)
Takeaways	167 (31.2%)	331 (61.8%)	38 (7.1%)
Other leisure (gyms, entertainment,etc)	20 (3.7%)	328 (61.1%)	189 (35.2%)

45.

TCR 2 Independent retail shops

Alnwick's independent retail shops are part of the town's distinctive character, and the plan should actively encourage the independent retail sector.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
256 (46.9%)	226 (41.4%)	50 (9.2%)	12 (2.2%)	2 (0.4%)

46.	TCR 3 Choice of shops				
There is not enough choice of shops. Alnwick needs more retail shops offering clothing, electrical goods, home interiors, etc					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
	208 (38.4%)	203 (37.5%)	76 (14.0%)	50 (9.2%)	4 (0.7%)

47.

TCR 4 Extending town centre business beyond 9.00-5.00

A wider range of businesses which will develop the evening economy of the town centre should be encouraged.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
112 (20.7%)	223 (41.3%)	133 (24.6%)	57 (10.6%)	15 (2.8%)

48. TCR 5 The Market Place

It has been agreed to implement a restricted parking zone in the market place to provide 11 short stay car parking spaces, a disabled parking space and 3 loading/unloading bays. The car parking spaces will not be available on days when markets and events are taking place.

Which statement best describes your views on this issue?

- 248 (45.4%) *This scheme seems sensible and time should be given to see how it works*
 97 (17.8%) *I would have preferred a scheme with more car parking spaces*
 180 (33.0%) *I would have preferred to see no car parking and with only loading & unloading permitted*
 32 (5.9%) *Other*
 Please specify
 43 (100.0%)

49. TCR 6 Future retail growth

Does Alnwick need more retail space (including out of town centre) to serve a growing population, to compete with other retail centres, to attract visitors and to create jobs? (tick one box only)

- 83 (15.1%) *No more retail space*
 165 (30.1%) *In town centre only*
 46 (8.4%) *Out of town centre only*
 233 (42.4%) *Both town centre & out of town centre*
 22 (4.0%) *No opinion*

50. TCR 7 Out of town centre retail development

Out of town centre retail development should be controlled so as not to undermine established town centre businesses.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
184 (33.9%)	233 (43.0%)	70 (12.9%)	44 (8.1%)	11 (2.0%)

51. TCR 8 Movement of pedestrians in the town centre

Alnwick needs to give improved priority to pedestrians within the town centre in terms of increased pavement space, improved surfaces, better street signage, etc.

Which of the following would you support:

(tick any that apply)

- 277 (52.0%) *Greater pedestrian priority in Narrowgate*
- 204 (38.3%) *Greater pedestrian priority in Bondgate/Within*
- 370 (69.4%) *Retaining but improving the surface to the cobbles*
- 108 (20.3%) *Replacing the cobbles in an alternative surface material in keeping with the historic character of Market Street and Bondgate*
- 303 (56.8%) *Repaving lanes and alleyways connecting to the town centre using materials in keeping with the historic character of the town centre.*
- 38 (7.1%) *Other*
Please specify
54 (100.0%)

52. Sport & Recreation

SPR 1 Open space

Do you support the plan committing to increase the amount of publicly accessible green space provided (eg parks and gardens) to achieve the standards set by the County Council for the rest of Northumberland?

- 457 (82.9%) *Yes*
- 32 (5.8%) *No*
- 62 (11.3%) *Don't have an opinion*

53. SPR 2 Outdoor sport

Do you think that improving the outdoor sport playing pitches in Alnwick is a priority for the plan.

- 287 (52.6%) *Yes*
- 140 (25.6%) *No*
- 119 (21.8%) *Don't have an opinion*

54.

SPR 3 Children's play

The provision and upgrading of children's play facilities should be prioritised to the areas in greatest need, in particular south Alnwick.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
133 (24.1%)	244 (44.3%)	142 (25.8%)	22 (4.0%)	10 (1.8%)

55.

SPR 4 Allotments

How do you think the amount of allocated space for allotments should change over the plan period to 2025?
(tick one box only)

- 169 (32.3%) *Keep the same amount of allotment space as now*
- 257 (49.0%) *A small increase in the amount of space allocated, in line with any future population growth*
- 98 (18.7%) *A large increase in the amount of space allocated*

56.

Tourism**TOU 1 Supporting tourism**

The plan should support Alnwick's role as a viable and competitive tourism destination.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
231 (42.5%)	253 (46.5%)	47 (8.6%)	11 (2.0%)	2 (0.4%)

57.

TOU 2 Seasonality

The plan should support developments that improve facilities and prospects for promoting year round visitor activity.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
215 (39.6%)	245 (45.1%)	58 (10.7%)	23 (4.2%)	2 (0.4%)

58. TOU 3 Locating tourism developments

Development of new visitor accommodation and tourism - related facilities should be supported in locations where it can complement other tourist businesses and services and enhance Alnwick's overall visitor appeal.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor disagree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
163 (30.0%)	269 (49.5%)	82 (15.1%)	22 (4.1%)	7 (1.3%)

59. TOU 4 Access for all

Alnwick needs access improvements in order to be a welcoming and delightful place for residents and visitors alike, including those with restricted mobility.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor disagree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
197 (36.3%)	266 (49.0%)	64 (11.8%)	13 (2.4%)	3 (0.6%)

60. TOU 5 Signage and interpretation

Improved signposting and interpretation is necessary to help visitors find their way and make the most of all Alnwick has to offer.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor disagree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
135 (24.9%)	231 (42.5%)	114 (21.0%)	52 (9.6%)	11 (2.0%)

61. TOU 6 Coach tours

Coach parking, drop-off and pick-up provision should be improved to ensure that Alnwick is made attractive for short stay town centre related coach operators and their passengers.

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither Agree nor disagree</i>	<i>disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
137 (25.2%)	252 (46.4%)	97 (17.9%)	50 (9.2%)	7 (1.3%)

62.

Transport

TRS 1 Pedestrian links

footpaths is required to link the residential, educational, commercial and industrial areas of Alnwick town and its central area.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
210 (38.9%)	253 (46.9%)	58 (10.7%)	16 (3.0%)	3 (0.6%)

63.

TRS 2 Cycle links

A well maintained, safe and signed cycle route network, mainly on existing streets, would benefit Alnwick town and its links to the surrounding villages.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
148 (27.5%)	186 (34.6%)	23 (22.9%)	54 (11.9%)	17 (3.2%)

64.

TRS 3 Public transport

The Alnwick bus station should be developed as a modern, high quality transport hub.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
325 (59.6%)	164 (30.1%)	38 (7.0%)	15 (2.8%)	3 (0.6%)

65.	TRS 4 Transport links and accessibility				
	Better links with Alnmouth Station should be developed to improve longer distance travel options for business and leisure journeys.				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
	294 (53.8%)	203 (37.2%)	38 (7.0%)	7 (1.3%)	4 (0.7%)

66.

TRS 5 Maintenance and upkeep

Repairing the surfaces of footpaths should be given priority over the improvement of road surfaces for vehicles, except where pedestrians cross the road or the quality of the surface represents a risk to cyclists.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
131 (24.4%)	127 (23.6%)	127 (23.6%)	120 (22.3%)	32 (6.0%)

67.

TRS 6 Traffic management

Vehicle speeds should be restricted to a maximum of 20mph in the residential areas of Alnwick town. 30mph may be permitted along access routes where conditions make this a safe maximum speed.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
151 (27.9%)	190 (35.1%)	130 (14.8%)	81 (14.9%)	40 (7.4%)

68.	TRS 7More sustainable transport				
Within the plan, walking, cycling, public transport and the movement of goods and services should be prioritised over private car travel to help deliver a more sustainable transport network.					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor disagree	disagree	Strongly Disagree
	123 (22.8%)	158 (29.3%)	136 (25.2%)	92 (17.0%)	31 (5.7%)

If you would like to add further comments please add them in the following box:

209 (100.0%)

If no, please explain any changes you would wish to make

Analysis...: If no, please explain any changes you would wish to make
 Filter.....: All Respondents

If no, please explain any changes you would wish to make

In the section heritage and culture there should be more emphasis on culture!
Has Alnwick Town Council any power now!!!
only some of it
Although i don't agree with all the aims in the plan, this is the first time that a clearly underestemate and comprehensive document has been produced - well done!
More ease of access for disabled people on streets in Alnwick would be advantageous
I think it is a reasonable start
needs prioritising linked to budget and time scale aims all impressive however
I think some ideas need to focus more on local people not tourists, but I agree with the majority
Over ambitious - too wide spread
I think there should be more emphasis on providing a youth centre as at present they have only public houses
The listed aims should be embraced within an overall aim. The aims here are stated in terms if the plan doing things, whereas all a plan can do is influence thos who are responsible for many things?
Less development meat of tourism and more on real job
Denwick and Denwick Detached do not feature in the plan very much
Not over development of tourism facilites not over development ie. new housing
Comprehensive but could be more focussed
Free town centre car parking in line with the rest of the county
Economic growth will require super fast broadband
Made clearer i.e less beuracratic 'mumbo jumbo'
But a bit short on specific actions!
Need to be more specific about visual improvements to town and future use for empty retail units
Given the current financial climate is any of this achievable, or is this just another paper exercise?
Protecting locak heritage e.g. corn exchange yes develop but remember and honour the history.
More should be done for people with mobility problems to access town facilities
Plans for park and ride car parks, also recognition of the future laws and contributions of the Aln Valley Railway should be included.
There is nothing in here that suggests that the plan is going to take any notice of respondents views.
Questions suggest plan already done
But doesn't state where priorities are!
Very concervative plan
I think thers is a problem with huge lorries ussing narrow road. Can only get worse
I would prefer more emphasis on people who live here rather than visitors
Are middle and high school age groups also being consulted? They will also be recipients

If no, please explain any changes you would wish to make

Analysis...: If no, please explain any changes you would wish to make

Filter.....: All Respondents

If no, please explain any changes you would wish to make

*There should be less jargon/management speak and more specifics rather than the nebulous concepts.
Questionnaire does not give full range of answer choices required*

*The automatic assumption that the high school moves to greensfield is fundamentally flawed and will bring
on a major decline of towns economic well being*

*Not many people will delve this 8 pages of proposals. People know what they would like to improve Alnwick.
Would willingly skip in late then views in a more direct and shorter questionnaire*

Broadly speaking

Please specify

Analysis...: Please specify
Filter.....: All Respondents

Please specify

Make it a hub for events, relaxing with trees and flower boxes
 Only used for disabled
 More disabled spaces
 It depends on how it is signed and marked out
 The cobbles cost a fortune - no parking
 Car destroy the character of the square
 Only loading and unloading plus 2 disabled spaces
 More disabled parking
 leave it alone
 more disabled spaces would be better
 No spaces park at own will
 Prefer fewer short-stay, keep disabled and loading/unloading, add the taxi rank
 Plus disabled bays (x3)
 The majority should be disabled not just!
 A more environmentally friendly area, trees etc.
 A proper market square with plants and seating
 1 space for disabled parking only
 Unloading only and disabled
 Provision of a bandstand at appropriate times
 There should be more disabled spaces
 loading, unloading and disabled
 More disabled parking
 Keep for pedestrians. NO PARKING!!!
 As little signage as possible
 More free parking as in south Northumberland
 Disabled only
 Disabled and loading bays only
 Disabled space only
 Load/unload, taxi rank, sight seeing bus load/unload
 2 more disabled places (3 in total)
 No cars in market place at all
 Disabled only and loading/unloading
 Parking here ruins town centre. You don't want to have a coffee in a car park

Please specify

Analysis...: Please specify
Filter.....: All Respondents

Please specify

Would like to see restricted parking to winter only - summer should be for more activities in the market place

Making sure that no cars park illegally

3 loading/unloading plus 4 disabled places

Promote varied other users of this public space for benefit the community and economy

Alnwick is a market town the square should be used for events and visitor attractions

Park + Ride in summer months

In conjunction with the 15/30 mins minimum parking in town centre and restricted hours for loading/unloading

The addition of 2 disabled bays

More disabled spaces needed urgently

Trees planted and flower boxes possible bandstand

Please specify

Analysis...: Please specify
 Filter.....: All Respondents

Please specify

Further consideration of car pavement parking in alleyways etc.
 Pedestrianise roads where possible
 Wheelchair access over cobbles
 Stopping street fouling with chewing gum and litter. More bins and cleaning
 Upgrade and maintain all footpath and walking areas
 Pedestrianise Narrowgate make traffic in Bondgate Within one way
 Having shop frontages in more traditional designs and in period colours where possible. Too many modern windows no in keeping with this ancient town
 Quality should be consistent
 More wheelchair access and shop furniture off streets
 none of the above
 Improve gritting in 'old Alnwick' for better needs in winter
 Cant see more pedestrian priority would be possible unless more car parking spave available else where
 do not agree with the statement
 Better lighting in lanes etc
 Pavement improvments - relaying
 More and better routed formal and informal crossing places for pedestrians
 Allow more crossing points in town centre, and replace cobbles with something easier for walking on
 Pavements brought to an acceptable level
 Remove all advertising boards on pavements and no parking of lorries and vans half on pavements
 Cobbles are a real public safety issue!
 Stop putting in market place! You appear to have given in to the selfish minority who there illegally
 Pedistrianise the Market Place! It is dangerous to walk there now!
 Cobbles must stay, they are a part of Alnwick
 Alnwick is rural, it needs shoppers who are less mobile and they need vehicles
 Park and ride facility to the town based at Alnwick Rail Station (more pedestrians, less traffic) More tourism.
 Maintain footpaths better
 Suitable accessibility to all i.e. presently hard if not impossible access on cobbles of diabled access.
 Please retain the cobbles, once covered they are gone forever
 Better access on curbs for push/wheel chairs
 Improve all pavements
 Tarmac all footpaths, not wheelchair friendly as it is now
 Remove cars from market place
 20mph speedlimit in the town centre

Please specify

Analysis...: Please specify
 Filter.....: All Respondents

Please specify

One way system through clock tower
Crossing to reduce speeds down to clayport bank Traffic lights at foot of wagonway road
Need to tackle cars parked on double yellows, pedestrian crossings and cross roads
Clear hedges overgrowing paths and clean paths
No vehicular access to town centre. Park + Ride system. One way system.
100% dropped curbs so mobility scooters, wheelchairs, prams can move safely
Please repave paths as they are in a diabolical state especially south road
Lots of cobbles
Leave the cobbles alone! To retain the character of the town!
Pedestrian only zone with ring road around the town centre
Leave the cobbles
Cobbles are vital to the character of the town centre
Implement civic society report of 2006
Repair and maintenance of existing footpaths
Easier access for shoppers
Another pedestrian crossing in Bondgate Within
Entrance off narrowgate into bow alley + greenwell keepy free of smashed bottles this ruins footwear and seriously injures animals feet
Fine as it is
Paving needs re-newing too many by illegal park of vehicles
Repairs to all pavements in Bondgate Within, dangerous surfaces for old people
Add small young trees between existing ones so it will replace older ones

—If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Analysis...: If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Filter.....: All Respondents

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Community facilities 3 - services for young people. The new school site is an obvious base - but not exclusively so NB The Playhouse Alnwick and District playhouse is a KEY facility in any future town development. It exists for the community 12 months of the year (not Easter and October) as well as tourists in season. Young people are at the heart of the future. Playhouse development in a series of learning and participation activities.

Thank you for all the work that has gone into this questionnaire. I highlight also: - how Alnwick markets itself - need for weekly publicised events to draw visitors in - atmosphere of fun and entertainment alongside what we have - need for an events/festivals manager, with small publicity team - promotion of Alnwick as a place for people for all ages young/families (as well as 60+)

TDU3 - should not be all Alnwick gardens and castle TDU6 - central drop off behind playhouse closer than a lot of towns. TRS2 - cyclists do not use these when provided so don't TRS3 - sheltered standing areas with toilets TRS4 - can only link with existing train services TRS7 - it is the car owner who brings trade to town!! Free car park in Alnwick if it can happen in Ashington and Blyth. It can happen here

Bus station - immediate upgrading is a disgrace Dog fouling - letter to every house/flat setting out responsibilities and penalties Dog walking - also need to remind dog owners of requirements to be in control of their dogs Car parking - on bus routes should be banned in residential areas, letter to remind that parking on pavement (even partly) is anti-social affects wheelchairs and pushchairs

Sorry pensioners have not been out much because of some health problems don't know too much what is going on. Definitely recycling glass. Can we have some bins closer, the heaviest is by the castle and back of shops. With no car, all so far away. The people further up town would probably be pleased. We used to have one opposite the bus garage on the corner much better. Some more bins for glass recycling please

What is affordable housing? No bank or building society will offer a mortgage to someone on the minimum wage. Due to the lack of light industry and other employment which would offer a 'decent' wage how many local people working in tourism can afford 'affordable' housing?

1) the playground facilities at Barrasdale/Community centre need a fence to keep dogs out. 2) the bus station leaves a lot to be desired. A rubbish bin would be good too. 3) the inner town recycling facilities at Greenwell Lane are ok (some could be emptied more often) but there could be other points around too. 4) the town would benefit from a smallish 'economic' hotel (ie. travel lodge) or similar

Pavements on either side of the length of South Road and Willowburn Avenue will increase the ease of pedestrian access to Sainsburys, sports centre etc. They will be important if the high school is relocated to this area. Relocation of high school away from the town centre may impact the retailers, with a loss of trade before/after school and lunch times

Job opportunities for the middle age range seems to have been neglected. Need to improve what we already have before expanding outwards. High school should be redeveloped instead of spending more money on relocating it. Agree that new housing designs need drastic improvement to maintain towns heritage. Transport connections to Newcastle need more consideration.

Bus transport to Morpeth and Newcastle should be more accessible to disabled people

Need tennis courts to sport improvement usable by public!

Re EMP4 - south road is already heavily used a further dev should be carefully considered. South road also needs to be seriously considered for re-surfacing (poor impression on entering Alnwick) Re TRS6 - 30 mph on South Road and should be a camera sited by fire station which made a huge difference when temporarily sited there.

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Analysis...: If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Filter.....: All Respondents

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Northumberland Estate plan must be made more public and included in the council's plan. Footpath priority to the path Allerburn Lea to Alnmouth Road and section on west of south road from cemetery to fire station (no pavement present). Cycle parking in market square or/and Bondgate Within

Housing! It is no use insisting on 'affordable' housing when only one bank will consider awarding mortgages on them. The 'affordable' flats at Percy Mes were over valued from the word good and are seriously under occupied. These former occupants who had had to sell lost a lot of money when they can't afford. It would be much better for the council to convert space over shops use them as affordable housing.

There are too many ugly dirty unkempt areas (smoking areas outside of pubs) and neglected areas full of litter/rubbish eg. opposite the bus station between the pub and pizza shop that spoil the visitor experience. It's terrible the overall visual appearance of the town was improved, as chewing gum, fag ends, dog dirt and litter and overall neglect ruin it for everyone, I want to be proud to live here!

All development should be sequential from the town centre and use brownfield sites first The former Willis garage site should be developed for housing, linking to the allotment and St James area Green space development should be proportionate and integrated in concept with access arrangement School sites once vacated are previously developed land The tariff system should apply also to large developments Adequate shopping property exists much is currently empty. Opening days as hours do not reflect current resident and visitor needs Quality of goods offered is an important variable The Market Place should be reserved for markets and entertainment activities Careful definition of retail is needed. Space inefficient businesses such as car needs should be aim for town

We need a decent supermarket Waitrose - M&S food hall. We need the roads repaired after all we pay for them! Petrol station and lower fuel prices we need to consider the people who live here

Not cycle friendly. Old railway line Alnmouth - Alnwick should be accessible and would be a great tourist attraction

CYF4 - youth shelter - make more use of the gallery project

I think your deadline of 2025 is too long. Can things not be done quicker than that?

It is vital to maintain individuality in Alnwick's main retail and service outlets - no more big chains and financial support for independent retailers would help with this

To improve the historic look of the town street lighting and furniture should also have a historic look eg. modern lamp posts replaced with ones with historic appearance

Any plan must encourage a sustainable future for our local villages there is no net benefit increasing capacity in Alnwick if it just offsets conversion to holiday lets in the villages

Too many homes in the town are empty properties used as holiday lets 10 weeks a year. We live in Pottergate - 3 out of 5 immediate properties are holiday lets and are only occupied 10/12 weeks a year. Local families could be renting there family home. Dog fouling is a nightmare! We are responsible dog owners. Please put more bins up - the peth in particular!

There seems to be a lot of affordable housing in Park View that is empty. Some was designed for the elderly but is not being used - can it be actively marketed/sold to key workers?

The Alnwick bus station is the town's carbunkle and is desperately in need of a total revamp The police should be encouraged to do their job and prosecute each and every yob causing damage and littering, which happens with maintained regularity... and still no convictions!!

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Analysis...: If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Filter.....: All Respondents

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

I am dismayed at seeing more empty shops in Alnwick particularly Narrowgate. Is this what we want to see in Alnwick and should questions be asked? Alnwick prides itself in independent shops but looks a sad place when shops are empty

On the subject of transport, a one-way network with traffic lights would benefit the loo of the town centre benefit cyclists and pedestrians and free up space for car parking alongside the main road eg. Hexham

Disabled parking made available in front of banks and building societies in Alnwick would be an advantage for people with restricted mobility (instead of the number of taxi ranks currently situated there)

Need youth centre, club ect. disco for the youth, better sports/leisure pool with warm water and fun things to do. Skate park for 8+years more activity for teenagers, pool rooms, darts, snooker etc. Bring back community spirit, also the road on Victoria Crescent needs traffic calming!

CF3 - I think it would not be a good idea to restrict youth services to the high school area. CF4 - A facility for youth would be a good idea, a lot of young people already have wi-fi access. Perhaps involve Gallery Youth for how best to move forward. EMP2 - there seem to be a number of empty places? ENV5B- would you not be better to plant trees to encourage wildlife? HC8 - plans to be made with local current suppliers HSG2 - the local infrastructure is weak near 2 of the middle schools TRS2 - not if they are like the ones already in town which are poorly done TRS5 - both need attention TRS6 - bad drivers will speed whatever the limit!

I would like to see fiasible development plan linked to priorities time scale and budget some items could be speedily arranges, others long term

Bus station needs to be improved and tackle litter problem there. New public toilets to be priority, current ones are a disgrace Improve public transport at night

Alnwick needs out of town retail park like that in Berwick which could attract Marks and Spencers/Currys/a supermarket with competitively priced petrol If tourism is to be developed all year-round activity, priority will have to be open to pothole repairs in winter and backing compaign to dual A1 Support improving links to Alnmouth station but taken car park will need expanding. Need to support campaign in superfast broadband for rural areas to support businesses

TRS7 - until you are able to provide a comprehensive public transport system (to more than 2 buses a day to a given location) it is pure folly to exclude motorists and such groups will undoubtedly choose another toen to shop in and also you must consider the cost if the population need to shop more often using bus rather than 1 trip in a car

As a new resident in Alnwick I am really enjoying living in the town. However, there is great potential to make the town centre more attractive for residents and visitors. Pedestrianisation of parts of the town centre would be very valuable and at present the heart of the town is basically a car park - not the market square. Finding ways to encourage visitors to the castle and gardens to also come into the centre would be great. At present the large majority of such visitors do not visit the town itself.

Only 1 hotel exists in the town centre, it needs competition to wake it up

CYF2 - area does not have a wide range of buildings but they should be improved Housing - other options I would like to see. Monitonam on second home ownership Legal binding and unchangeable targets for tented housing which cannot not be backed down on. Transport housing and community access to land are my priorities

Roads and pavements in the older residential estates in Alnwick should be upgraded as very little maintenance has been to them especially in my area in the last 30 years!

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Analysis...: If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Filter.....: All Respondents

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Many of the questions are equally loaded It is unbelievable, for example, that there is no clear question relating to pedestrianising the town centre!

Strongly believe that green spaces attached to serious within the town should not be developed for housing. Alnwick's independent and attractive retail offer is being decreased by rent increasing, meaning many business can no longer trade. Financial increased needed for people to establish

Think there is a need for more expensive houses in Alnwick as there home owners would have more money to spend in the local community. I don't think having high street named shops is the answer. We need more independent retail shops selling wider variety of goods. I'm sure the business rents need lowering to give more opportunities for new businesses

The plan should aim to provide more car parks or a park and ride facility. More accommodation for older residents in or next the town centre at reasonable rent would be wonderful. An attempt to provide better links to the north of the town - south of the town is served much better

My priority for Alnwick is the provision of clean toilets. This should be an urgent requirement. The bus station is also in need of upkeep and is an embarrassment to Alnwick. The problem of dog-fouling still persists and owners should be prosecuted

There is no incentive for new small local businesses. Northumberland Estates has a chokehold on the town with prohibitively expensive rents and rates. Small businesses are simply priced out and not given support, financially or otherwise. The town is dying, and does nothing to attract visitors out of season.

This questionnaire appears to only allow agreement with the plan and didn't allow us to make any suggestions. Why was it not delivered to every door in Alnwick? Will you publish how many responses you got? As it has taken us around 10 mins to complete.

It is all well and good talking about more retail developments when many town centre shops are empty. Businesses sites ie. Lionheart Industrial Estate and Crawledge are under subscribed why think of making more empty sites more should be done to encourage businesses ie. lower rates and rentals

Dog fouling remains a serious problem. Some dog owners appear to enjoy violating the law on this matter.

There is nothing to do in Alnwick for teenagers except from the drop in, but if you have no money then it not good

Should be more things to do for kids and the police should be more lenient

*Question T0U3 - focus should be on developments for local people not tourists, especially for young people
TR54 - better transport links to villages eg. Swarland*

The bus station should be redeveloped with retail facilities incorporated eg. Morpeth central area - Footpaths in Alnwick should be surveyed with views to improving them. ie. footpath from Allerburn Lea to Alnmouth Road. Unusable in wet weather should be to standard of Fisher Lane Denwick Lane to Allerburn Lea

A park and ride scheme for the summer should be considered so that locals are not driven out of town to find parking for shopping. Improved surfaces in the present car parks

Retailers in local businesses should have more respect and greet customers more with a smile! Instead of being miserable and by not communicating properly everytime they are only after one thing! MONEY!

More use of column field for car park for hospital. More parking spaces ie. multi storey Repairs to roads as they are a disgrace at the moment

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Analysis...: If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Filter.....: All Respondents

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

A massive increase in traffic will not help residents near to the new school and sport facilities. We need more single person flats. We need to use the schools' fields for children wishing to play. It may be possible (due to improved environment - less coal fires and soot) to use other trees/plants than the usual lime and sycamore. We need nature reserves. Could the old tip at Cawledge (near the new railway headquarters) be used as a nature reserve. There are a tremendous variety of plants here. Could it be tied in with the new railway. People wishing to use the nature reserve could use the railway's access road. There could be parking problems and there could be danger in walking on the tip in that you might sink in softer areas where the rubbish has not compacted. It should be possible to put a footpath around the outside of the tip for viewing.

The constraint of no development to the north due to 'historic landscape' needs discussion Alnwick is already 'obsided' and further expansion to south and east would exacerbate this. Allowing development to north would create a more balanced town. This would be of benefit to most residents.

More education is needed to ensure that residents use their blue bins correctly. Bus times have changed recently so that bus no longer meets the train! This needs to be sorted out

A footnote in the booklet states that the lack of enforcing parking regs is causing congestion this is total rubbish. The case is that Alnwick is keen to promote tourism but drags its heels in providing sufficient parking places for visitors and residents alike in respect of parking and parking fees Alnwick has had to dance to the tune played by county hall and this is unlikely to change

Bus station and toilets should be a priority in this tourist town both are a disgrace. The market place needs organising before there is a serious accident

Only retain and improve where practical - it may be possible to amalgamate services into buildings - releasing other thereby reducing costs

TCR 5 - Repairing the surfaces of footpaths is of no use at all unless vehicles are kept off pavements. Priorities would seem to be upgrading of the public toilets with disabled access and an upgrading of the bus station (and therefore somewhere new for the youngsters of Alnwick to congregate)

Improved bus service to/from Newcastle. Journey time is now longer since all buses are via Shilbottle. Its 20-33hrs bus from Newcastle is time-tabled to Alnwick but in fact terminated at Morpeth where passengers have to wait for a bus to arrive from Ashington in order to continue to Alnwick. Meanwhile the first bus returns to the depot in Ashington - LOGIC does not appear in the Arriva dictionary!!

I strongly agree that Alnwick bus station needs serious upgrading and provision made for young people who congregate there. TOWN CENTRE PARKING would like it to be free. Presently if I want a sandwich at lunchtime I drive to Sainsburys as often to charge to pay for parking plus don't want to pay 40p to buy a £2 sandwich

Its disgusting that you cannot connect the bus with train services to both Newcastle and Edinburgh. This is not very tourism friendly and will put people off coming to Alnwick knowing you have nearly an hour wait for trains

Overall I think the options paper offers a range of sensible choices however as the plan develops I think it will be essential to distinguish more clearly

Make Bondgate tower wide enough for 2 cars as in summer the traffic is horrendous however retains its historic look

More effort to combat dog mess by irresponsible owners! Both maintenance of roads (potholes!) or footpaths!

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Analysis...: If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Filter.....: All Respondents

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Use people on community service to clear the 'public footpaths'. Most of them are usable. Get them out to clear streets covered with snow. When is the car park to be re-surfaced. It is an absolute disgrace. What are we paying a parking fee for??

The bus station and general post office let the town of Alnwick down. Ashamed at visitors seeing them, need updating badly it is '2013'

Cobbles uneven all over Alnwick, please urgently see to the footpaths. As in a disgraceful state for the elderly falling. I am my mam's carer and take her out in the wheelchair as she is arthritic. And nearly come out wheelchair when I hit broken and uneven disgraceful pavements. Also uneven curbs and cobbles throughout Alnwick, we could have a serious accident. Please do something about this

No mention car parking why is that? The town centre is jammed with traffic parking on local streets causing annoyance and blockage. The fact is you're stuck behind the Duke and a hard place. Tourism means traffic and there is no where for it to go. The cobbles and market place should be pedestrian and beautiful area, not covered in cars. Previous planning meant the desecration of the centre of the Alnwick listed buildings flattened, Fenkle Street, St Michaels Lane, Dodds Lane - feeble laws on listed buildings not enforced. The development of safe ways and bus station was disgraceful. The bus station is appalling, the surrounding area is rubbish dump - You are dependent on the Duke's handouts, Alnwick is a feudal town, you'll have to go to the castle cap in hand for any of your plans

Cleanliness of town an issue. eg. chewing gum, cigarette ends, dog dirt, some buildings look quite scruffy and worn. The outsides of shops, pubs and restaurants could look a bit more inviting to attract customers. Some of the pubs are noisy late at night which puts people off feeling safe

The bus station is an absolute disgrace, if I were a visitor to the town and got off a bus at the station I would get straight back on! It is filthy and litter and graffiti strewn and the Arriva buses aren't much better, most are filthy dirty and that is first thing in the morning, if this is the first view visitors get of Alnwick no wonder trade is suffering, look at Morpeth Bus Station!!

No mention of play areas for east Alnwick - Springfield, Ravensmede, West Acres and Oaky Balks

Alnwick bus station is currently little short of 'disgraceful'. Public toilets facilities - very poor. What was once a charming market square has been ruined by a 'free-for-all' parking policy?

I'd like to see the town council support the re-instatement of the rail link, with a view to it being used by commuters and local people alike, to connect the town to the present and future plans seem to be aimed at the tourist/rail-enthusiast market. Already the new car park at Alnmouth station is full so car parking as part of a transport interchange, beside the new station would also have to be considered in the plan

Cleaner grass cutting methods need to be found. Footway cleaning/sweeping needs addressing also dog fouling needs to be addressed, offenders prosecuted

Alnwick is a rural area - we need to make proper provision for free car parks so that rural shoppers come to Alnwick - not go straight to the metro centre where they have free parking

A few more disabled car parking spaces are necessary in Alnwick. The local authority should put more effort into checking that buildings have better access for disabled people and more restaurants and cafes have disabled toilets. Community centres are an important service for older people to allow them to mix and socialize

Where is the money to come from?

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Analysis...: If you would like to add further comments please add them...
 Filter.....: All Respondents

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Existing school should be rebuilt and improved. The plan is all about Alnwick and very little about Denwick/Denwick Detached. Little thought has gone is to the road system around the Lionheart Retail Park for the future

Actively encourage further supermarkets, department stores, even a chain garden centre to outskirts of town would help the area enormously currently most that can travel miles for competitive shopping, petrol and gardening products. Expanding on sainsburys, homebase and argos would improve job opportunities. Introduce glass recycling bins/tubs to recycling dpeots or willing to do so. Fines should be then introduced for any home recycling glass.

Youth shelters do not address to real needs of young people, they need an indoor space and time with role models. New school/relocation of middle schools - if they aren't places on one site it will be regretted in a short period of time and seen as extremely short-sighted hihg end boutique/supermarkets/shops required urgently to increse competition shop times - saturday afternoon Alnwick is dead (ask yourselves why!!) Banks must not open beyond 4pm. Broadband issues: must be addressed in anything areas as a priority. Potholes - why no rating programme to fill in?

ENV1 - bins may be provided, but it requires the education of the dog owners and others to use them HC7/TOU5 - questions are associated with each other! decisions shold be made which are required between these two items. TRS4 - in addition, improve the A1 trunk road eg. dualing the carriageway totally. TRS5 - priority should be given equally to footpath and road uses alike! TRS6 - illuminated speed signs should be erected on the south road between hotspur tower and the oaks hotel ensuring the 30 mph limit. All the plans are fine, but surely it is whether they can be financed and further, are implemented

Security and flood lighting. Many of these lights cause a neusance by being badly deployed. As well as uselessly lighting the sky above they can cause a considerable amount of dazzle, sometimes this is merely annoying and inconvienient but can also be a danger, particularly to drivers, can more control be applied to the indiscriminate deployment of these lights?

Lack of parking spaces is the biggest problem where any development is planned in the town. A multi-storey pack is urgently needed - eg. on the old united bus garage sight or the present site beside the corn exchange. Bus station improvements would be desirable but first the buses themselves need renewing and the service more reliable

TCR8 - remove portable advertising from pavement by retailers to improve pedestrian movement without having to walk on road if busy ENV1 - extra bins will not improve dog fouling, which is a disgrace in Alnwick only fining culprits will improve matters TCR5 - the market place is focal point of town. Cars should not be allowed to park here HC - Public building should be better maintained - tree growing out of masonry of Bondgate; council offices. Town hall is dowdy and unappealing for functions

In a broad brush survey like this, it is inevietable that the responder will tick most area postively. It would make more sense in days of limited responses that we should be easier to identify

When referring to the provision of services for young people, the plan uses the word 'improve'. This should also be applied to the provision of services for older people rather than just saying the plan supports facilities for older people. All vacant dwellings/premises should be looked at for potential additional housing prior to any new developments being considered. As there is a waiting list, can not a rule be applied whereby any allotment not maintained is given to someone who is serious about looking after it. The plan refers to not promoting tourism to the extent that the area becomes over-reliant on it. It should also not be over-promoted at the expense of destroying what brings a lot of visitors here in the first place. ie. the unspoilt nature and the under-population in the region.

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Analysis...: If you would like to add further comments please add them...

Filter.....: All Respondents

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

- no wifi. Get them away from computers for a while ED1 - think of the transport at arriving and leaving times ENV1 - also a campaign to get people to use them. Fouling is notably on the increase ENV3 - please give serious thought to the avoidance of light pollution and amount of electricity are wasted in the industrial sites and sports pitch flood lighting HSG3 - new housing should not be available to purchase as second homes or holiday lets HSG6 - the state of most upper storey accommodation is a disgrace, especially in the market square TCR7 - we do not need the big chain stores TCR6 - retail space at towergate and rebert adam court still remains empty. TRS2 - would the number of cyclists warrant this? TRS5 - after the recent bad weather repair of pot holes in roads should be a priority TSR6 - in some areas driving at much more than 20mph is impossible because of parking. Also parking on footways is illegal but nothing is done. I would like to know the proposed route of access road to Greensfield

Keep cars out of town centre as much as possible. BUT other shops are needed

As a consultation document the questions are quite closed so don't give people the option to explain why which can sometimes be useful

TRS 6 - Adjustment of speed limits is meaningless without a responsible capture encouraged by sensitive enforcement - the majority of noisy, aggressive motorists/scooter drivers cause disturbance. TCR 5 - any car parking spaces legitimise driving through the market place, which the current anarchy appears to approve. Apart from a reference to Hulme park in the brochure, Alnwick Castle and Gardens are a tourist attraction, not part of the plan.

Transport section is strongly pedestrian orientated yet you are allowing parking in a designated pedestrian and in the town (Market Place) - why? Just because you cannot tackle a few law breakers! Also signs on footpaths are dangerous to pedestrians eg. outside The Plough - no room for pushchairs or wheelchairs - yet nothing gets done.

Parking for shoppers - should not be restricted to car parks - I have to pay to pick up and drop off my grandchild who I look after when his mum is at work because the parking outside her home is pay & display - I would purchase a shopping permit but a full parking permit is too expensive costs me £1.00 - £2.00 twice a day.

Dog fouling to be actively policed Promote local independent shops Promote homeworking Promote arts

Alnwick is suffering because of the free parking offered in places such as Blyth, Cramlington etc. We all live in the same county, we should all have either free parking or we all pay. This may sound trivial but it has a direct affect on the wellbeing of the small towns.

The trees in Alnwick should be pruned at a regular level 5 years is far too long for them to be left I'm sick of having to duck under them and they are never checked for damage unless a member of the public reports it.

Do something about traffic speed and anti-social driving within town centre and residential areas. Wagonway road is dangerous.

The junction between Wagonway Road and South Road by Barter Books is three roads converging. There is badly needed traffic light control or maybe as a 2 maybe 3 mini roundabout 'set up'. While I agree there are probably insufficient funds and no serious accidents have occurred at this junction; this should be a priority as summer (tourists) traffic causes many traffic jams and during Alnwick 'rush hours'

Very good, well thought out. I love Alnwick!

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

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Filter.....: All Respondents

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It is disappointing that the unique opportunity for improved tourism/all year visits, reduced car traffic etc provided by the imminent opening of linking Alnwick - Alnmouth by rail is not mentioned. If there is one that could create a shift is this it. Developing a park and ride would be a great first step from Lionheart Estate to the town.

Bus station to be developed but hidden behind new flats. New tower on clayport access to town. To push forward, quickly completion of Maltings development. Restriction in shop rates to bring a retail small, diverse range of shops in town centre.

I have a little shop in the town centre. If you bring in the large retailers, they take away the business from the small retailers and the town loses its small shops. Alnwick then becomes the same as any other town instead of the wonderful old town that it is. People like Alnwick BECAUSE it is different to everywhere else.

The sporting club development at Greensfield must get the go ahead. For too many years sport has been neglected in Alnwick, and we have the chance to provide a generation with fit for purpose sports facilities. Side Note - some footpaths in south of Alnwick need to be relayed A.S.A.P

More money and man power spent on picking litter emptying litter bins and street cleaning. Drains especially need regular cleaning to avoid blockages and flooding - residential areas don't get drains cleaned on regular basis now. Hedgecutting - where overgrown on footpaths - see path from Oaks Hotel - South to Royal Oak Gardens entrance. Stop advertising on roundabouts and grass verges.

The last bus from Newcastle to Alnwick is 20:30, therefore cars have to be used. Need for a taxi rank at Alnmouth Station

Who thought up this questionnaire was well paid

EMP2 - we cannot fill these premises already so why build new ones How much has this cost to produce and have we as tax payers footer the bill Give homes to local people (not Poles who do not work)

As pointed out earlier a drop in centre for the elderly should be provided. A general place for elderly to mix - no selected club - but just a drop in centre where a weekly tea dance and coffee mornings could be held. Older people need to be encouraged to meet others - and this is not always possible due to high cost of some events.

TRS 5 - Road surfaces in Alnwick are in a shocking state of disrepair priority should be given to bother roads and pavements TCR 2 - shops need to have appropriate shop fronts in keeping with this historic town the frontage of the Newcastle Building Society is an eyesore.

The information on the back of the form should have been retained on the inside and not on the outside. I.E email address and telephone number so it was kept private

There needs to be drop in centres for the elderly to stop people feeling isolated. They would most likely be run by more physically able volunteers as the people who have maintained Alnwick in their fitter years feel they are now being sidelined.

A new petrol station (one that stays open) is vital to Alnwick. We need to stop the monopoly that the only petrol station is cheaper petrol will stop people driving out of town to fill their cars up and usually shop at the same time.

Improvement to the A1 south of Alnwick is eestion for continued economic growth, the single carriage way stretch of the A1 is often dangerous and slow. The desperate state of the roads with pot holes and uneven surfaces does not help matters either.

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

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Parking - Market Place There should be NO parking in the Market Place. I foresee when 11 spaces are filled, people will park all over the place as now. Why not have barriers at entrance of it, with shop holders having a key to let in any deliveries.

Dogs should not be allowed around play parks as children play on surrounding area a clear health risk. They should have a special fenced of area where poo must be picked up. The tennis courts are a vital free facility and must be kept in the town centre.

Affordable parking charges not only to private cars but also public transport use also. The above also goes for affordable prices for use of public facilities such as sport centre, pool.. especially for those on long-term or permanent benefits. Remember also by moving the high school you are taking a substantial income away from the centre of town i.e. student spending. New business need long term support e.g. rates not sustainable and result in new/short term sit useage/closures.

Public Transport - the bus station improvement is essential. At present it gives a poor impression of the town. More 'local' bus services without depending on a bus coming from Berwick or Newcastle a more local frequent service, even a town service where you can take a bus from the bus station to the castle - or gardens - or to Bondgate Within - Sainsburys etc or the Hoggs Head Inn - Lots of options

Most of the sporting facilities cater for boys... Multi purpose venues are NOT multi purpose as the hockey pitch/football pitch/tennis court at the community centre cannot be used as a tennis court unless posts or nets are set up. The same goes for Amble.

RE speed limits in built up areas. 20mph limits are in place in some areas but still motorists ignore speed limits. Pavements are in dsigraceful state all over the town i.e. loose flagstones, curbstones and uneven surfaces. Public toilets are in very dirty condition. Standards of cleanliness have definitely fallen. Allotment land should be kept as allotment land and tenants sought for any vacant lots. Town centre needs cleaning up completely.

Alnwick town centre needs a complete refurbishment i.e) footpaths need tarmacing as flag stones not viable for wheelchairs also flag stones need repairing to often also toilets need serious refurbishment and bus station is a disgrace not enough variety of stopes have to go to Morpeth or Newcastle for a variety of shops. I very much welcome the thought of wetherspoons coming to Alnwick

Any new housing developments could be greatly enhanced by thoughtful tree plating in bother small grouping and as single specimens as well as preserving existing trees and the local landscape. This would avoid the bare, sterile look encountered on many housing developments and in tum would improve the overall look and impressions of Alnwick as a whole, helping to give a greated sense of place. The new residents would have a pleasant environment which would help give a greater taking of 'pride of place' Tree planting and landscaping terms and conditions could easily be incorporated at the early planning stage

CYF3 - should no be town centre ENV2 - and increase rang of doorstep recycling HC1 - not if this means restrictions on how people can make homes more energy efficient. HSG2 - assuming there is no flood risk. School sites should maintain green spaces as possible HSG5 - include energy efficieny standards TCR6 - we need to encourage the existing population to use shops/services before we look to population growth.

Any new housing developments should consist of a mixture of property types, sizes and cost in order to provide a balanced socio-economis grouping of people. This helps develop a more socially stable community with fewer problems in the long term. It is essential that these developments reatin the existing landscape features and trees as well as incorporating new tree planting so as not to detract from the country town character of Alnwick

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

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Some way has to be found to balance the effect/draw of the castle and gardens complex with the rest of Alnwick. The gardens and the castle need to offer more permanent employment opportunities

Make a better bus station (with no smoking!)

Need to encourage retail outlets with the quality of e.g. Marks and Spencer - Why Berwick, Morpeth and Hexham but not Alnwick? Supermester filling station needed to offer comperative prices Creation of continental Christmas style market and entertainment to encourage winter noiture and make the newer of christmas lights Improve state of roads on main routes into/out of town Support the Aln Valleys Railway's scheme for a guide route/footpath from Alnwick to Alnmouth Develop a park and ride near to the Aln Valley Railways site at lionheart to alternate town to settle traffic problems Support the heritage, cultural and transport opportunities offered by the new Aln Valley Railway Remedy the problems caused by the flooding which regularly takes place in heavy rain fall. Council objectives in the plan should be cultivated from 'hopeful generations' to realistic, practical and achievable activities

Alnwick's children play facilities often get destroyed i.e. burning of the tarmac - better watch on parks are needed and teenages should not be allowed they make it an un-safe place for children to play

No smoking at bus stops

I think a bar should be set up for under 18s, no alcohol just soft drinks

A greater fraction of recycable waste should be collected from door steps in line with best practice in other areas in the country People visiting Alnwick castle and garden show be more actively encouraged to patronise the town. Discourage any more large supermarkets

Too many new houses already Town keep expanding south and south east The river aln needs far better protectin from enroachment and increased run off There aren't any facilities for athletes at all - just loads of unused football pitches There are too many wasteful lights running the night sky and costing a fortune to run. Why not develop the broom house area for housing in particular? Who wants to live next to the A1 anyways?

Make your decisions and just do it. We do not want another market place mess

The footpath from Alnwick to Denwick should be cleaned of litter a lot of people walk dogs along this route. No wetherspoons also do not want more vomit on the streets at weekends

Pot-holes reappear repeatedly in the same places. False economy to continually fill them in. Resurface the whol area. Bad examples: Swansfield house down to Blackshaws is intersection and central Waiting tiema at foot of wagonway road, especially turning right is terrible faster flow is required

I think we need a better council and that we should have a council vote for an Alnwick not a council from Morpeth. Also need much better transport links if like myself you don't drive then it is a long way from my end of town to greensfield for a 9 year old to go to school especially in bad weather. Also if I want a bus from Alnwick to Rothbury I have to travel to Morpeth for the bus.

The upgrading of the bus station must be a priority. Arriva must alsoe be made to make the building they occupy attractive and useful. Since currently they are an eyesore in the centre of our town

There are no green areas within walking distance of the town as or benche within a park to enjoy a coffee or sandwich from would enhance th town. Alnwick needs to look to the future - a town centre that shuts shops at 5pm with no decent eateries will die out.

Steps should be taken to try and combat the disgusting state of pavements i.e. gum and dislodged flags

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

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ENV2 - curb sides pick not everyone can get to a recycling area HC7 - need for better or easier seen sign posts the number of card and drivers driving west when they to be north or east is unbelievable. All boards on pavements should be removed TCR7 - control will only drive people to Cramlington, Newcastle and Gateshead TOU5 - as HC7

The Market Place would be a pleasant place for families to picnic in the summer months with perhaps disabled parking only but in the winter months revert to the suggested restricted parking. Tourism question 3 - Low cost budget hotel rooms are needed to attract families and people on low incomes

Childrens play areas not policed enough to prevent older children spoiling same many paths in Alnwick are overgrown from householder hedges

I believe the 2 things that will harm Alnwick most is the fact that the town centre is unable to cope practically with the huge lorries and buses expected to share single lane roads! Plus the resident m-street parking it will eventually choke!

Alnwick needs better school facilities Shop fascia's should be in keeping with a historical market town Pedestrianised streets More shops Improved bus station Better maintenance of roads Out of town retail park Better playgrounds Stop dog fouling More 'high street' shops

I am disabled and used mobility scooters or manual wheelchairs, though dropped curbs have improved they are not 100%. I have to use roads one place (opposite No11 Wagonway) as curb has been left too high!!

There seems to be a high proportion of affordable housing at the moment. Houses seem to be getting smaller and smaller would you choose to live in them? Some questions needed more background information - what are the services for the elderly? New senior school should be number 1 priority

The estate road in Allerton Lea needs to be relaid and regularly maintained. Consideration should be given to a high class hotel for the town, if deemed economically viable A new Marks and Spencers would be welcome None stop express buses to Morpeth then Newcastle

Need more pedestrian crossings - particularly on South Road opposite Sainsburys/trading estate. Also at column/war memorial roundabout very dangerous trying to cross road with pushchair and children

Situation of parking needs to be addressed. Wardens are over keen to give parking tickets there should be an overlap of 5-10 minutes over the limited time tickets are dished out for only a few minutes over. It is affecting retail shops!

We want better toilets

We would like better places to go or cinemas, better toilets

I believe more emphasis should be placed on improving yet retaining the town historic touch, and that an expanding retail further afield

Kick the chavs out of the bus station

Street and pavement cleaning around the town should be another priority

Bus station is a big priority! It needs desperately improved and more shelter (for example, Morpeth) Shops are a priority and jobs for young people Free transport should be for school pupils!

I feel there is a strong issue for improving or building new toilet facilities in the centre of the town! The toilets in the shambles are smelling and disgrace to Alnwick as a tourist town! Not well signposted and just a botched job in the first place! Come on you people who run Alnwick town, get yourself around the places!

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

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Please do not let Alnwick lose its distinctive identity by filling it with national chains and becoming just another satellite

In some towns a shop has been set aside for community use on a short term 1/2 week basis. The premises are fitted out with shelving, etc. A percentage of the week's takings go to the 'council' and rest to organisation. Apart from a source of it also allows different local organisations a 'window' within local community

We did not find the explanatory booklet helpful as it was far too vague. Where do people go to get extra forms in multi-occupancy households? We feel that it is vital that Alnwick keeps its 'old fashioned, 50 years ago feel' when it comes to attracting tourists. And we like it that way too!

Both road surfaces and pavements should be given equal priority

We should have free parking like the south of northumberland

Public transport between Alnwick and Newcastle now means football supporters can no longer get back from Newcastle games that are midweek this is due to the late bus now stopping at Amble and then last train to Alnmouth leaving before the game ends

The market square should be used much more. Antique markets, flea markets, much better farmers market. There should be more to do at night to attract more tourists, the town is dead by six o'clock in summer, not good enough

The plan should support the removal or reduction of all car parking charges. This would encourage visitors to Alnwick

TCR6 - empty shops, new developments opposite Morrisons hasn't been filled with retail units. How can we say that we need more retail space?

Tourism should not come before the people who reside in the area. We need to see a big change in public toilets in Alnwick. Independent retail shops and high street names, could do more to get my custom some of them are time wasters I do try my best to shop in town

Talking to residents and businesses I don't think that the car parking situation in Alnwick has been resolved - yet! A strategic "delivery plan" needs to be drawn up and a "body" to deal with the delivery needs to be established. Otherwise this will remain a static plan

Alnwick at the moment looks a mess. It is a lovely old town and deserves a clean up. The market square should be bright and inviting to pedestrians and flowers - not cars. It is a pedestrian controlled area - it says so on the signs

I reckon if businesses spread out around Alnwick some form of place/open social area would be necessary for connecting the town centre to other parts of town, widening shopping locations and tourism

The damage to footpaths and obstruction to traffic flow into Alnwick from the south is unacceptable. Enforcement of existing restrictions is imperative

Parking provision is not addressed adequately in the plan, not the issue of parking charges in Alnwick compared with other towns in the county. Need for more availability of individual house building sites to give more balance to social structure in the area, in the past 20-30 years all housing development has been of the large estate medium/low cost type and not attraction high earners and therefore high spenders to the area

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

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It would be great if Alnwick could attract quality shops to the centre - we shop a lot in Morpeth now! Cheaper parking - M&S, Laura Ashlee, Fat Face, Paperchase, Rutherfords being among our favourite places to shop. too many 'cheap and chatty' shops here!! They may be OK for some folk which is fair enough but we don't feel they are for the majority of Alnwick's population. Come on Alnwick!! Make a great place BETTER!!

Parking should be free so shops in Alnwick can compete out of town supermarkets and retail stores The bus station should be top of the list

Dog fouling creates a very negative first impression undermining all of the efforts outlined in this document. For an area with so much history and natural beauty tackling fouling is an urgent need which would benefit everyone and especially tourism and therefore local business. It is a tangible problem at present.

Dangerous precedent to link repairs to footpaths with improvements to road surfaces!! Its like comparing apples with oranges

Why does the town bus service not cover chapel lands?

Improvement of bus station should be a priority

In all sections the emphasis should be on people. The people who live here, who work here or who visit Alnwick. The local business should be more interested in the development of the town in the future. They should make their premises maintained to a high standard. They should keep the pavements clear of unnecessary goods. They should welcome new enterprises that wish to come to the town.

Alleyway from permit holders car park into main st always in a scruffy/litter/dirty state Cycle route Lesbury to Warkworth should be better sign posted e.g. at all junctions/access/from main road and start access. Many cyclists use this path - and continue to held up traffic on a road full of bends

TRS4 - Aln Valley Railway will link Alnwick to Alnmouth when it is complete

Get the roads repaired! Give locals priority for housing - stop commuters taking over the town

Sporting facility for the older generation - sports councils were asked time and again to provide an indoor long mat bowling facility in Alnwick. A very large number of bowlers from Alnwick, Amble, Seahouses, Lesbury, Rothbury etc. All travel to Cramlington or Denton Burn up to 3 nights a week to play bowls through the day or in the evening - a costly hobby. But well supported by men and women

Roads should be better maintained i.e. pot holes. Better affordable housing situations should be priority for young families with children

Our bus station is a very poor introduction to our town. It doesn't offer any help to visitors or give a good introduction to our fantastic town. This must change

Toilets and bus station must be improved immediately for summer 2013. They are both disgraceful!

Some comments require 2 ticks!! e.g. TCR2, TCR3. TRS3 TCR7 is crucial if town centre businesses are not to suffer. But how can this be controlled?

Bye law against dropping chewing gum. Provide bins Provide open spaces and imaginative facilities for teenagers Alnwick is a superb town

Consideration should be given to the towns flooding problems. Last summers' flash flood aside, these are locations where surface water is out of control (ie. running water through Swansfield Park from broken drains). Add more nature to our few green open spaces in terms of fruit trees and habitat for birds. Have a strategy for controlling teenage inability to use bins

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

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I have found that there are aspects of the plan that I have strong views on and would like to comment- Environment 5B (trees) - I don't think 50% should be fruit trees - we need biodiversity to supply feeding and shelter for wildlife Town Centre Cobbles - the cobbles add to Alnwick's historical appeal and must be retained Transport - improvement desperately need to be made to both footpaths and road surfaces, one should not be prioritised over the other. Reducing the speed limit in Alnwick to 20mph would cause added congestion - most of the roads in Alnwick provide their own speed restricting measures and speeding usually isn't evident. Alnwick is a historic town, we don't want to become a museum but we need to take advantage of our uniqueness

Before any more retail sites are opened existing sites should be tidied up, landscaped and developed. The Lionheart is unattractive and neglected on perimeters and not a good advertisement for Alnwick. Entrances to Alnwick itself (particularly A1 from North) need to be kept litter free, made more attractive and better maintained

There should be out of town parking with bus link to centre for cars and coaches. North and South of A1. Then there would be an introduction in the centre of Christmas market etc. to extend the visiting season (like Durham, Birmingham, Leeds). Alnwick is perfect for it!

I've already filled one of these in - I just wanted to add ENV3 I think all new builds/refurbishments should have solar panels and water butts or something to catch rain water to flush toilet with, as well as full insulation etc. TRS3 The bus station is ok, apart from the need to keep it clean, especially during school days. However, what we need is a bus service that runs to time with buses that don't keep breaking down every few days (I'm talking about Arriva) So it not possible to re-open the bus garage in Alnwick, as the situation is abysmal at the moment - ask any of the Alnwick drivers. Best of all rubbish bus services a lot better of use only local buses put on an hourly service from Newcastle to Berwick up the A1, instead of the overcrowded 2 hour service especially in the summer

Encourage the landlords of properties in town centre especially in market place to maintain and reconsider their properties

The public toilets in Alnwick belong in 1950. As does the structure and function of the bus station. Empty shops and ill-kept buildings (plants growing on walls and roof tops) all serve to indicate to the visitor that our town is in decay and no body cares plan away but action is needed with an urgent approach

It is important that the infrastructure of Alnwick increases in line with the amount of new housing or Alnwick will just become a dormitory town. The roads are currently in such a bad state of repair they cannot take precedent over footpath repairs

What happened to the bus meets train good slogan but service of poor probably our offence against its trade descriptive act. wait for bus or train at Alnmouth station is normal. A massive discouragement for those without a car to Alnwick the miss. I certainly would. It is often quicker to travel on X15 bus to Newcastle then wait for train at Alnmouth. The northumberland county council not interested Arriva have a vested interest in not contacting and out of the training and the jury is out on the interest of our MP

Most of Alnwick's challenges stem from influences outwith control: i.e. the particular agenda of Northumberland Estates, the power of the supermarkets and the malign influence of a coalition government hell bent on destroying the welfare state. Other than that we can only cross our fingers, put in our plan, and wait...

TRS2 - cycle lane near Lionheart business park is on a road too narrow to give it the adequate space TRS5 - roads are used by cyclists as well as us and large potholes are a hazard to all road users

If you would like to add further comments please add them...

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In temptation of conservation regs are inconsistent. Need to have energy consultation regs will not apply there to grade 2 listed buildings e.g. double playing

If the bus station was developed it would have to be monitored so that it does not become a young meeting place and no go area for other people. Cycling is not safe on some roads out of Alnwick so paths need to be provided e.g. Alnwick to Alnmouth. This would also open the possibility for non car drivers to use the train. Bus meets train times are poor. When the school is built at Greensfield road vehicle access needs to be carefully considered. Wagonway Road to St James Estate will be over run by cars/buses.

I thought the councils had no money where are you going to get the money to do all these things. I think it is time you started to get Alnwick cleaned up as I think that it is getting very dirty. Some councillors must go around with their eyes closed.

As newcomers to the area we are not in a position to comment on these questions. The pads in Northumberland are poorly maintained with many dangerous pot holes and poorly positioned manhole covers. Potholes do not appear to be properly filled in with a tar seal. The road under the A1 near Sainsbury's is a good example. Outside Bart Books two manholes are so badly placed they are worse than pot holes - cars swerve to avoid them

Transport 3 - the bus station is ok, but what it needs is sweeping at least 3 times a day - especially at dinner times, as the amount of rubbish is disgusting, very bad for welcoming visitors. TRC - every time a shop in Alnwick closes, it re-opens as either a cafe or a hairdressers/barbers. Please no more. We need electric goods and component shops and I would like a book shop - ie. Waterstones or Applebys and an old fashioned sweet shop. Also where car parking is concerned, would you not be able to turn the Greenwell Lane car-parks into a 2-tiers? and how about trying out park and ride from the town's edges?

HSG2 'open space' needs to take precedence. HSG4 - Only if those on the waiting list really can afford/access mortgages etc. TCR4 - not sure about this item - but late night and sundays would be good possibly to link with special events in the market place in summer and Christmas periods. TCR6 - With competition from Morpeth - Sainsbury's should size/choice - also Morrisons (but without moving). SPR4 - consider asking if a smaller allotment would be ok - so divide existing stop to - depending on seasonability and wishes of next on the list

More attention needed to provision of 'dropped kerbs' points on pedestrian routes to give access for people using mobility scooter and wheelchairs

Small young trees planted on cobbles as the ones that are there are old and damaged. More general tree planting in town, the bus station needs tidying up and trees in the market place

Jobs need to be created for people to stay in the area. High street names - Marks and Spencers, Next either out of town or on the main street, Willis' garage site needs to be developed soon, healthy competition is good for the customer and the retailer needs to set out their stall

ALNWICK & DENWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

NEWS 2014

your town
your plan
your future

Watch out for
these key stages
over the next few
months:

Consultation period for draft
plan – look out for exhibitions
and open discussion
events

Early May – Mid June 2014

Prepare final draft
neighbourhood plan for
submission to Northumberland
County Council

July/August 2014

Period for NCC to publicise
the submitted Neighbourhood
Plan

September/October 2014

Independent examination
of the plan

November 2014

Referendum with everyone
in the plan area eligible
to vote

January 2015

Adoption of the plan by NCC

February 2015

Watch out for more details in
the Gazette and online

NORTHUMBERLAND
GAZETTE

Draft Plan on its way

Look out for it in May & June 2014

We will need ***your***
comments and feedback!

This is ***your*** chance to take part
at this key stage and help shape
the future of ***your*** town!



ALNWICK & DENWICK
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk

for town
after major
investment

your town – **your** plan – **your** future

PRESS RELEASE

Saturday 8th June 2013

Come and get involved – have your say on Alnwick's development plan.

Where should any further new housing or commercial development go in Alnwick, what improvements should we make to transport networks, where can we accommodate new open space?

The Steering Group for the Alnwick & Denwick Neighbourhood Plan is moving on to the next stage with a consultation event to develop proposals highlighted in the recent public questionnaire and these are some of the questions we would like your help to answer.

This Community Partnership event will take place on **Tuesday 18th June** at St James's Church Centre, Pottergate, Alnwick, starting with refreshments at **6pm** followed by an update on progress by the plan co-ordinator, Peter Biggers, and then an overview by Town Clerk Bill Batey of the results of the recent questionnaire.

County Council Staff will then outline the special characteristics of Alnwick and any developments already in the pipeline that influence future changes in the town and where new development can go .

A practical session, using maps etc, focussing on the various topic areas will follow, giving an opportunity for everyone to get involved in thinking about proposals for the plan. Outcomes will be fed into an overview session at the end.

Bill Batey said “...*this is an exciting stage of the plan when we begin to make proposals about what changes should be made in the town and we need your views and opinions and urge you to come along and take part in the discussion*”.

For further information see the A&DNP website – www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk - or phone Bill Batey on 07971 810267.

/ends/

www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk

ADNP – Thursday 18th September 2014

Evening 6pm -8.30pm, St James's Church Centre

Attendance List

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Philip Angier	Local Living
Madeline Russell	Alnwick Guides
Frances Allsop	Resident
Mike & Gina Christian	Residents
Ronnie Baird	Cussins -Developer
Gavin Johnstone & Janice Ramezanpour	St Michael's School
Adriene Rowley & Mike Gunning	Age UK
Jan Anderson, Sharon Spurling, Suzanne Stanley	Newton on the Moor /Swarland Parish Council
Roger Styring	Lesbury Parish Council
Joan Grimrod Helm	St James Church
David Taylor	Alnwick Chamber of Trade
Fiona Yeoman	Resident
Colin Wakeling	Travelsure
Alasdair & Shelia Pratt	Residents
Ron Bernstein and Tom Spence	Aln Valley Railway
Rosalee Cooke-Jury	Resident
Liz Juppenlatz	Student Researcher
Heather Cairns	NCC Councillor
Peter Ennor	Civic Society
Kate Cairns	County Councillor
Richard McKenzie	NCC Highways & Transport
Linda Veron	NCC Education
Chris Frater	Resident
David Turnbull	Resident
Susan & Stanley Trafford	Residents
Mr & Mrs H Taylor	Residents
Susan Bell	Resident
Councillor J and Mrs Humphries	Town Councillor and resident
Mr & Mrs M Buchanan	Residents
Councillor Pat Holt	Town Councillor
Peter Rutherford	NCC- Planning
Kevin Bartlett	NCC- Locality
Councillor Alan Symmonds	Town Councillor
Councillor David Farrar	Town Councillor

Plus members of the ADNP Steering group, including the topic leads

ALNWICK & DENWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

PROGRAMME FOR WORKSHOP WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ON DEVELOPING PROPOSALS FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Tuesday 18 June 2013 – 6.00– 9.00pm

St James Church Hall, Pottergate, Alnwick

6.00 Refreshments, Introductions and Welcome

6.30 Progress on the plan since the last meeting **Peter Biggers**

Overview of the results from the Issues and Options consultation **Bill Batey**

6.45 Understanding spatial constraints on the plan and assets of the plan area that may influence decisions on location of proposals (**Facilitated by NCC staff**)

Understanding what development is already committed (**Facilitated by NCC staff**)

7.10 Identifying the opportunities for various proposals by topic– **Group work led by topic leads.**

- Brief 2 minute introductions from each of the topic leads on the main proposals so far
- Participants will be asked in advance to choose two topic areas they wish to discuss proposals for in detail
- Participants will spend 30 minutes discussing 1st topic considering which proposals they are happy with , which are non-negotiable which need to be amended then move to a second topic and spend a further 30 minutes discussing that in the same way.

8.30 What arrangement of plan proposals gives us the best and most sustainable development strategy for the plan **Plenary session – groups feeding back their thinking.**

The evening will finish with attendees being asked to take part in electronic voting to consider how sustainable the plan proposals are in terms of environmental, economic and social outcomes.

9.00 Close

4.4 Evidence/Documentation of Stage 3 (August to October 2014)

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These will be reflected in the final version of The Plan – when you will get the chance to vote on it in a local referendum.

This should take place in 2015.

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So what should you do next?

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www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk

Look out for our shop window displays around Alnwick and our stalls at events in the Market Place. Come and let us know what you think at our drop-in day at the St James's Centre, Pottergate in September.

Fill in our feedback form and send in your views by post to the Town Council at Cemetery Lodge Office, South Road, Alnwick NE66 2PH or via the drop-off points listed on the feedback form by 29th September 2014.

Watch out for details of the referendum – they'll be sent to every household next year and it's essential that you vote.

***Don't miss this chance to shape the future
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Alnwick & Denwick
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk



Alnwick & Denwick
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

The Alnwick & Denwick Neighbourhood Plan is a new type of planning document that gives local people more say about what goes on in their area. It sets out a vision of how we all want to live, what we need to improve our daily lives and how these changes should happen.

***It's your chance to have your say about
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These ideas and concerns have shaped the Draft Plan and its associated Community Action Proposals, which will be the framework for important decisions up until 2031.

In future, Northumberland County Council will have to take The Plan into account when it decides on big issues such as where new houses and jobs should go or how the town centre should change.

But it's about so much more than this.

It also looks at schools, sports and leisure facilities, transport and our unique landscape and heritage. Take just a few minutes to find out why this Plan is so important to you and to all of us here in Alnwick and Denwick.

HOUSING

Because Alnwick and Denwick is such a beautiful place to live, demand for homes is high – and so are prices. The Plan says we need more land for around 700 more new homes in the next sixteen years, some of which should be affordable for local need. Land to the south and east of the town is earmarked for new housing.

We should also provide a good mix of homes for young people and the growing numbers of elderly people.



ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

Providing jobs and a healthy economy is essential to the future of Alnwick and Denwick. The Plan sets out where new businesses should be developed. It looks at the importance of the town centre and tourism. It encourages opportunities for jobs and training for our young people.



TOWN CENTRE AND RETAIL

We all need a good selection of shops. The Plan asks for improved town centre shopping in Alnwick, better shop fronts and a revitalised Market Place. Out of town shopping should only go ahead if it will not harm the town centre.



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CULTURE

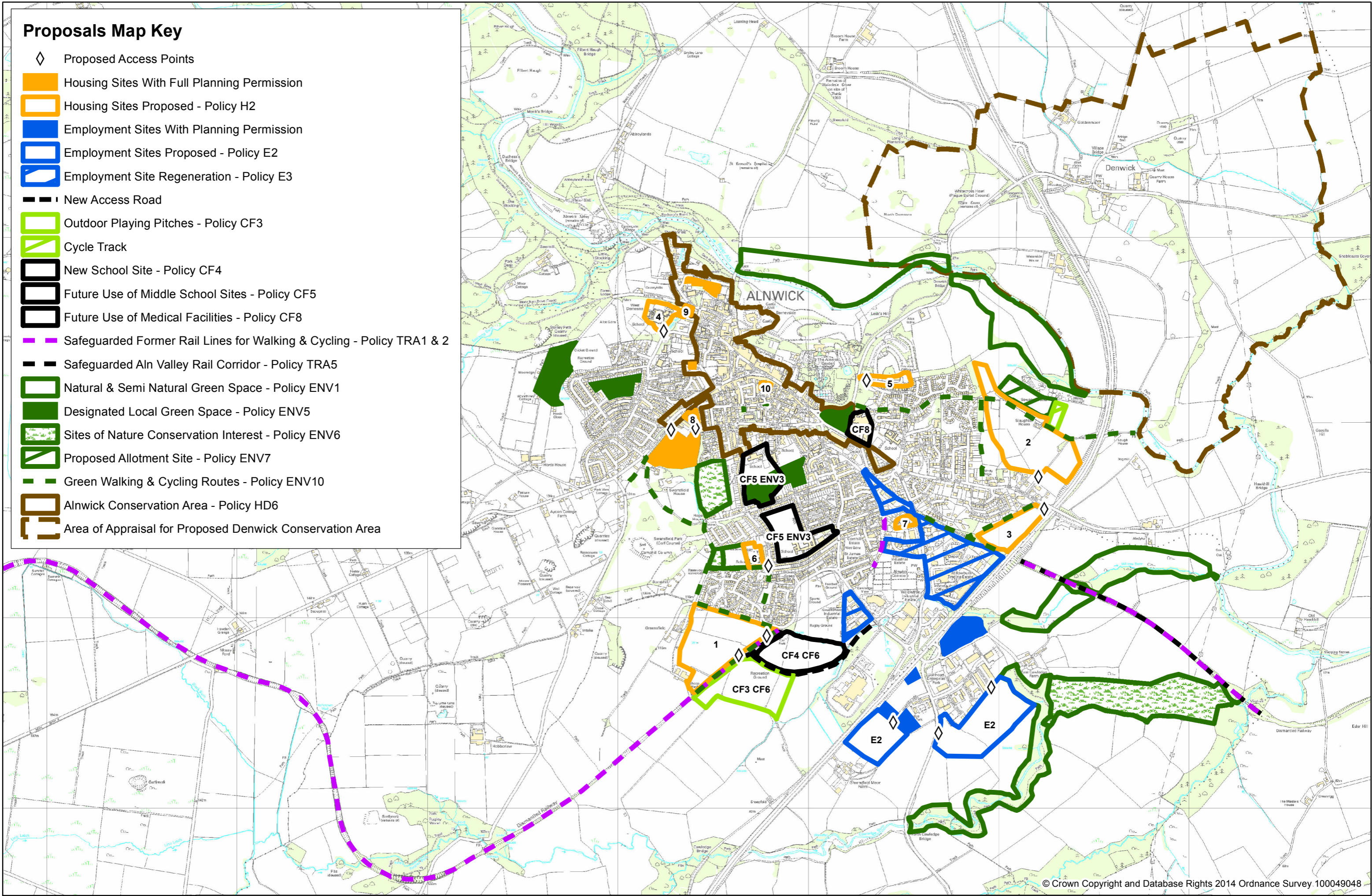
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ADMIT ONE

Alnwick & Denwick
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

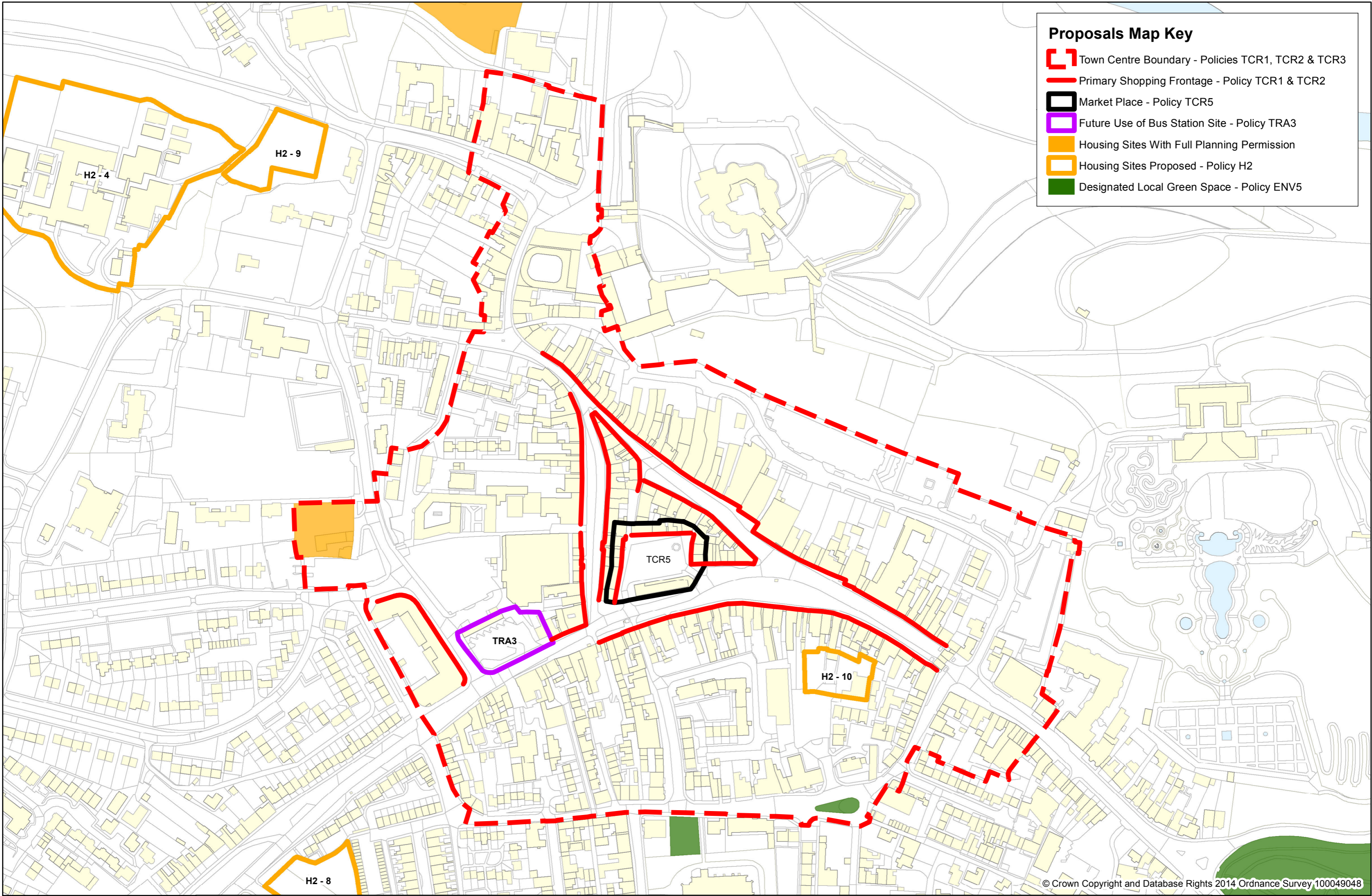
Proposals Map Key

- ◇ Proposed Access Points
-  Housing Sites With Full Planning Permission
-  Housing Sites Proposed - Policy H2
-  Employment Sites With Planning Permission
-  Employment Sites Proposed - Policy E2
-  Employment Site Regeneration - Policy E3
-  New Access Road
-  Outdoor Playing Pitches - Policy CF3
-  Cycle Track
-  New School Site - Policy CF4
-  Future Use of Middle School Sites - Policy CF5
-  Future Use of Medical Facilities - Policy CF8
-  Safeguarded Former Rail Lines for Walking & Cycling - Policy TRA1 & 2
-  Safeguarded Aln Valley Rail Corridor - Policy TRA5
-  Natural & Semi Natural Green Space - Policy ENV1
-  Designated Local Green Space - Policy ENV5
-  Sites of Nature Conservation Interest - Policy ENV6
-  Proposed Allotment Site - Policy ENV7
-  Green Walking & Cycling Routes - Policy ENV10
-  Alnwick Conservation Area - Policy HD6
-  Area of Appraisal for Proposed Denwick Conservation Area



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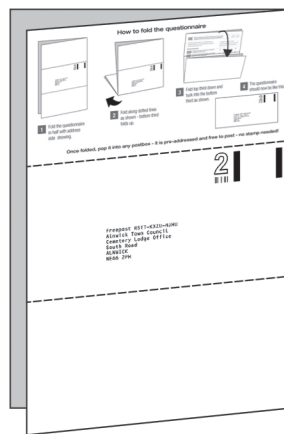


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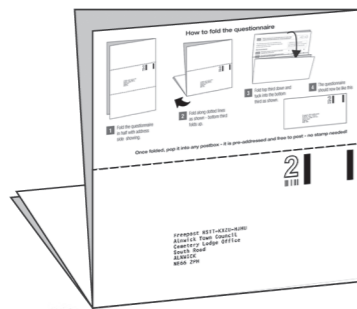
- Town Centre Boundary - Policies TCR1, TCR2 & TCR3
- Primary Shopping Frontage - Policy TCR1 & TCR2
- Market Place - Policy TCR5
- Future Use of Bus Station Site - Policy TRA3
- Housing Sites With Full Planning Permission
- Housing Sites Proposed - Policy H2
- Designated Local Green Space - Policy ENV5

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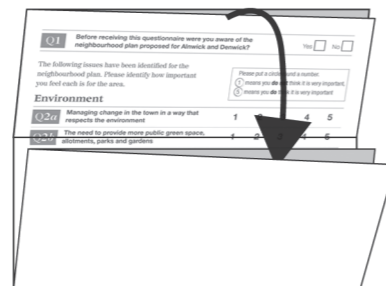
How to fold the questionnaire



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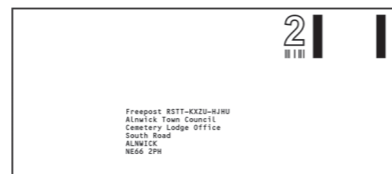


- 2 Fold along dotted lines as shown - bottom third folds up.



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- 4 The questionnaire should now be like this



Once folded, pop it into any postbox - it is pre-addressed and free to post - no stamp needed!

Freepost RSTT-KXZU-HJHU
Alnwick Town Council
Cemetery Lodge Office
South Road
ALNWICK
NE66 2PH

A&D

Alnwick & Denwick

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Public Consultation

4th August 2014

to 29th September 2014

Feedback Form

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN ONE FORM
FOR EVERY COMMENT MADE

Name

Organisation (if relevant)

Address

Postcode

Email

Tel. No.

Please state which part of
the Draft Neighbourhood Plan
your comment refers to.

Please complete boxes which apply,
or leave blank if you are making
a general comment.

Chapter

Page Number

Paragraph / Section

Policy Number

Community Action Proposal

Are you supporting, objecting,
or making a comment?

Please tick box.

Supporting ☐

Objecting ☐

Making a Comment ☐

OFFICE USE ONLY

Consultee No.

Representation No.

Additional forms are available from
The Clerk, Alnwick Town Council
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clerk@alnwick-tc.gov.uk) or they can
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Please use the
space overleaf
for your
comments.

Form area with horizontal lines for writing.

Form area with horizontal lines for writing.

Thank you for your time and interest.



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Or to the drop-off points at:
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**Responses
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5.00PM
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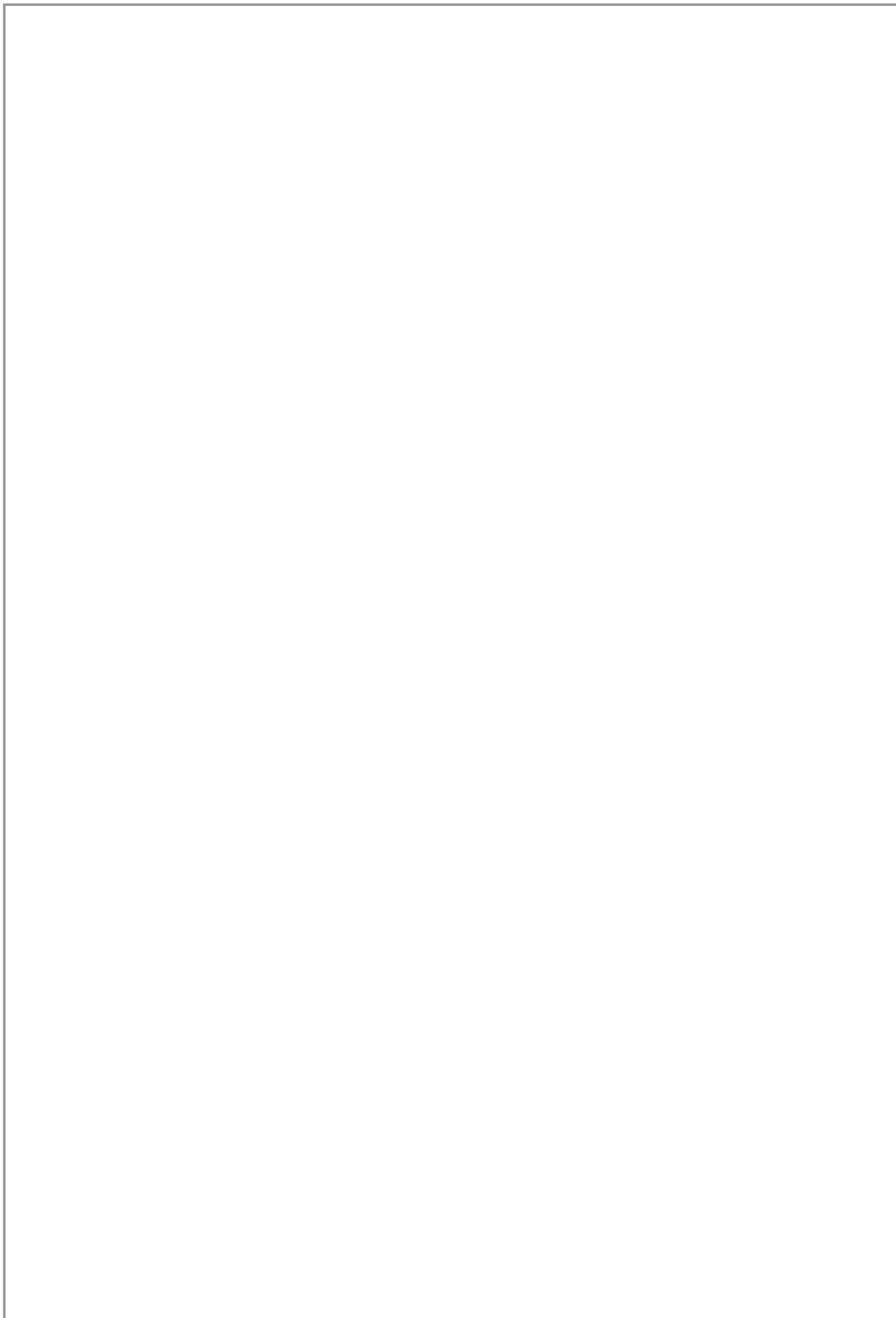
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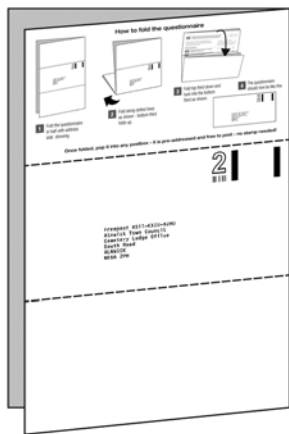
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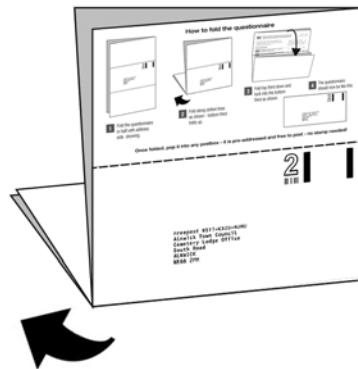
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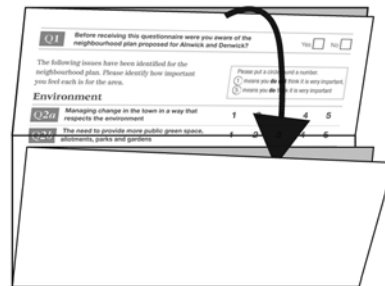
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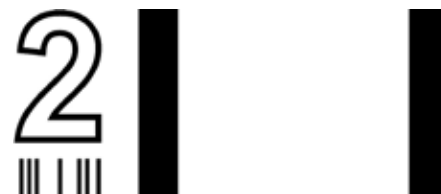


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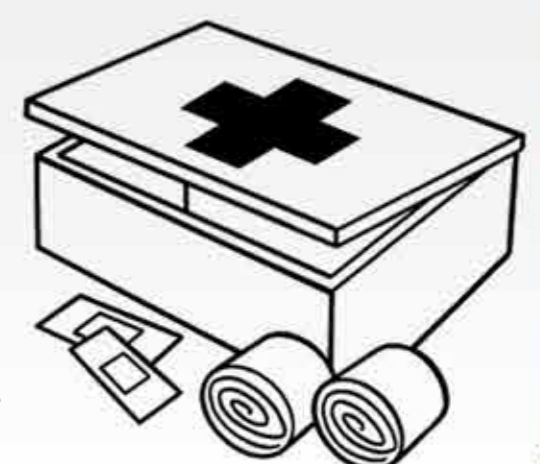


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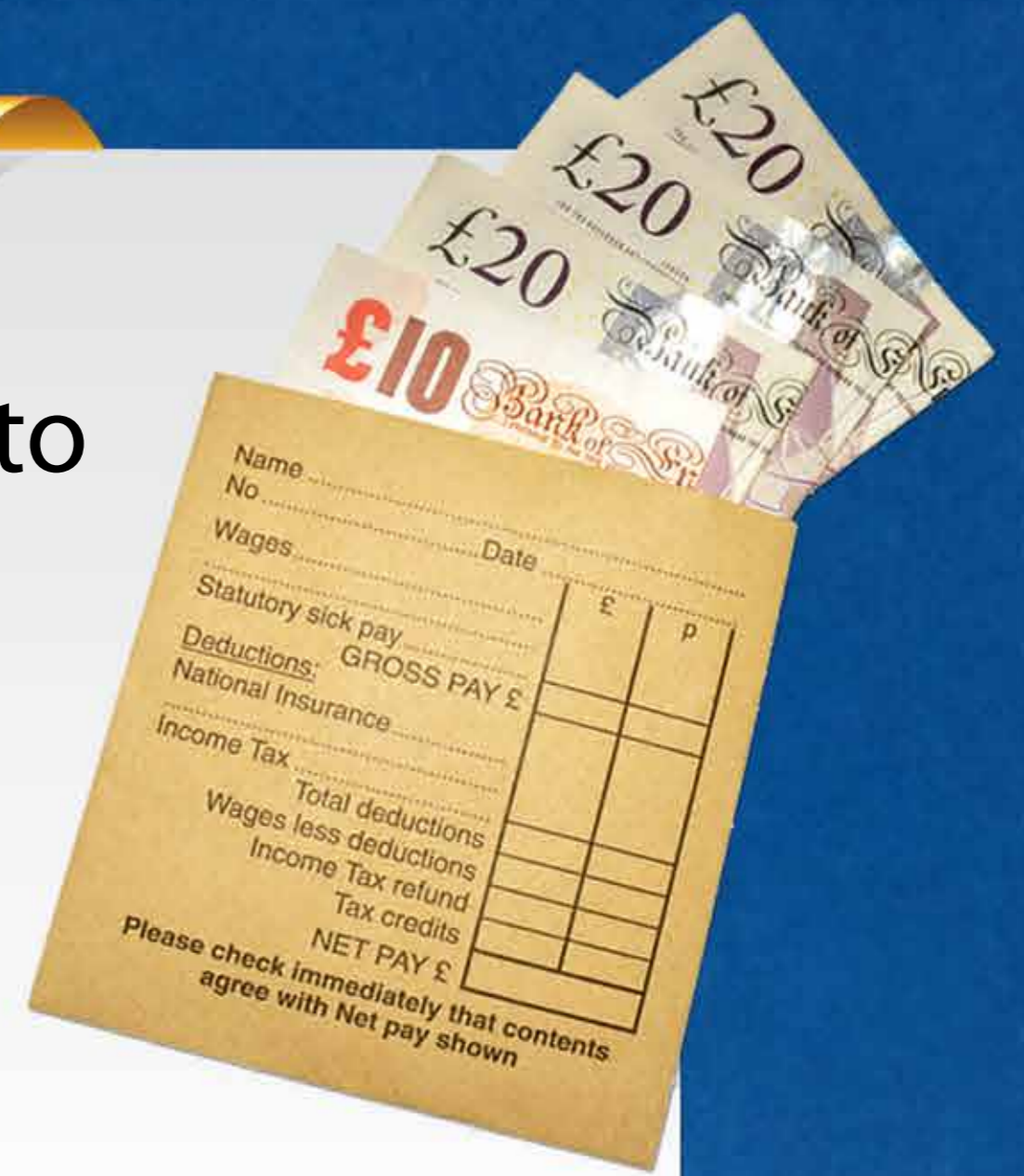
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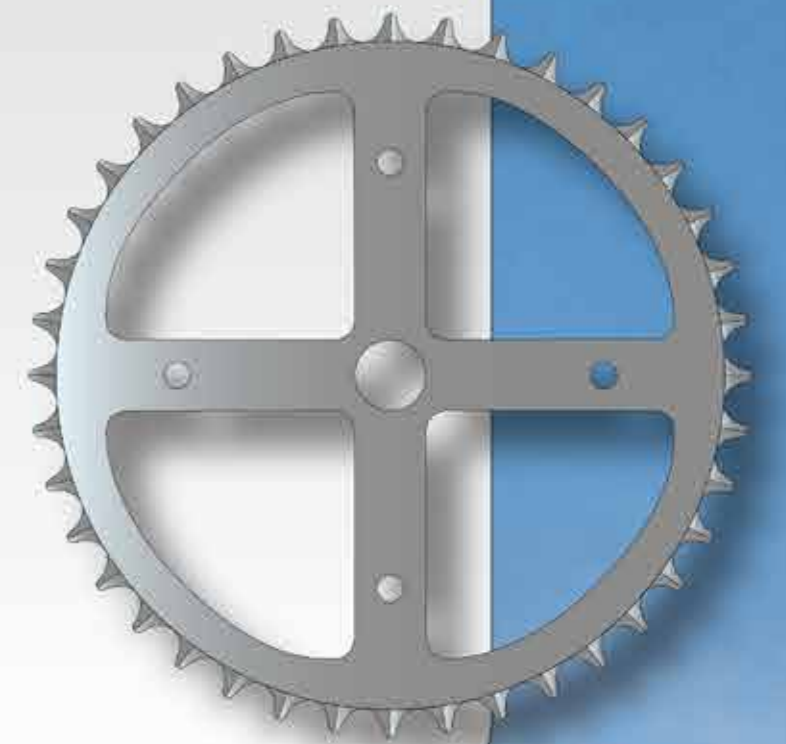


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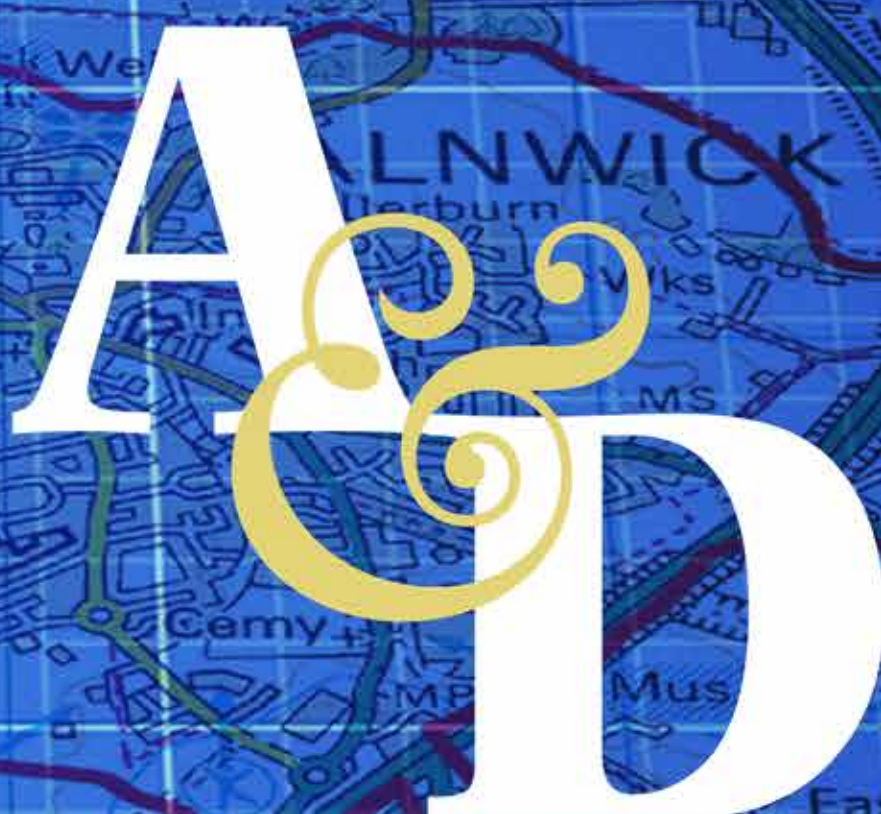
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or visit

www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk



ALNWICK
TOWN COUNCIL

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

Your opportunity to have a say in your community's Neighbourhood Plan.

Alnwick and Denwick Parishes have been working hard preparing a new type of plan called a Neighbourhood Plan. The draft plan is out on consultation until 29th September.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood planning helps town and parish councils to prepare a plan for their area, in close consultation with residents, businesses and other local organisations.

Why are we doing it?

The draft Plan has been drawn up by a Steering Group of volunteers from the town and parish and in response to your input over the last couple of years.

It is very much ***Your Plan*** for ***Your Town*** helping to shape ***Your Future***.

It's a plan that looks forward optimistically and lays out policies and proposals for the future growth and development of Alnwick whilst ensuring that our great heritage and fabulous environment continues to be protected – *but have we got it right?*

Use our Feedback Forms to give us your views but make sure you get those back to us via the collection boxes around town or by post by the 29th of September.

Alnwick & Denwick
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Public Consultation
4th August 2014
to 29th September 2014

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PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN ONE FORM FOR EVERY COMMENT MADE

Name: _____
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Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Email: _____
Tel. No.: _____

Please state which part of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan your comment refers to:

Chapter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Page Number	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paragraph / Section	<input type="checkbox"/>
Policy / Measure	<input type="checkbox"/>

Community Action Proposal: _____

Are you supporting, opposing or making a commitment? ☐ Supporting ☐ Opposing ☐ Making a Commitment

Additional terms are available from: The Clerk, Alnwick Town Council, Telephone 01661 71822 or email: clerk@alnwick-tc.gov.uk or they can be downloaded from our website: www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk

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(Chief Officer and Town Clerk)

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or email

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or visit

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Alnwick & Denwick
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



ALNWICK
TOWN COUNCIL

Northumberland
Northumberland County Council

Alnwick and Denwick Consultation Bodies

Local Planning Authority

Karen Ledger
Northumberland County Council,
County Hall,
Morpeth,
Northumberland,
NE61 2EF.
Tel.: 01670623430
Email: karen.Ledger@northumberland.gov.uk

Adjoining Parish Councils

Mrs C Miller clerk to **Edlingham Parish Council**,
14 Addycombe Close,
Rothbury,
Northumberland,
NE65 7QF.
Tel.: 01669 621565
Email: rothburyparishcouncil@hotmail.com

Mrs A Smith clerk to **Eglingham Parish Council**,
25 Blakelaw Court,
Alnwick,
Northumberland,
NE66 1BY.
Tel.: 01665 603755
Email: amycartmell@gmail.com

Mrs E Taylor clerk to **Lesbury Parish Council**,
Rivendell,
Steppey Lane,
Lesbury,
Alnwick,
NE66 3PU.
Tel.: 01665 830040
Email: lesburyparishclerk@gmail.com

Mrs E Taylor clerk to **Longhoughton Parish Council**,
Rivendell,
Steppey Lane,
Lesbury,
Alnwick,
NE66 3PU.
Tel.: 01665 830040
Email: parishclerk@hotmail.com

Ms W Pattison clerk to **Rennington Parish Council**,
11 Rock Village,
Rock,
Alnwick,
NE66 3SD.
Tel.: 01665 579137
Email: wpdenwick@btinternet.com

Miss CM Miller clerk to **Hedgeley Parish Council**,
14 Addycombe Close,
Rothbury,
Northumberland,
NE65 7QF.
Tel.: 01669 621565
Email: Hedgeleyparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

Coal Authority

Planning and Local Authority Liaison,
The Coal Authority,
200 Lichfield Lane,
Berry Lane,
Mansfield,
Nottinghamshire,
NG18 4RG.
Email: planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk

Homes and Communities Agency

Homes and Communities Agency,
St George's House,
Kingsway,
Team Valley,
Gateshead,
NE11 0NA.

Natural England

Consultation Service,
Natural England,
Hornbeam House,
Electra Way,
Crewe Business Park,
Crewe,
Cheshire,
CW1 6GJ.
Email: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

The Environment Agency

Planning Consultations,
Environment Agency,
Tyneside House,
Skinnerburn Road,
Newcastle Business Park,
Newcastle upon tyne,
NE4 7AR.

Email: planning.nane@environment-agency.gov.uk

Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England

Mr Alan Hunter (Regional Planner)
English Heritage,
41-44 Sandgate,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE1 3 JF.

Email: alan.hunter@english-heritage.org.uk

Network Rail Infrastructure Limited

Network Rail Infrastructure Limited,
George Stephenson House,
Toft Hill,
York,
YO1 6JT.

The Highways Agency

Asset Development Team - Yorkshire and North East,
Highways Agency,
Lateral,
8 City Walk,
Leeds,
LS11 9 AT.

Email: [planningYNE @highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:planningYNE@highways.gsi.gov.uk)

The Marine Management Organisation

Ms Angela Atkinson
PO Box 1275,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
Tyne and Wear,
NE99 5BN.

Tel. 01913762589

Email: Angela.Atkinson@marinemanagement.org.uk

Relevant Primary Care Trust

Steph Edusei (Strategic Head of Corporate Affairs)
NHS Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group,
County Hall,
Morpeth,

Northumberland,
NE61 2 EF.
Tel.: 01670 335 161
Email: stephanie.edusei@nhs.net

Any person to whom a licence has been granted under section 6(1)(b) and (c) of the Electricity Act 1989.

Northern Powergrid,
Records and Information,
Manor House,
Station Road,
Penshaw,
Houghton le Spring,
County Durham,
DH4 7LA.

National Grid,
National Grid House,
Warwick,
Warwickshire,
CV34 6DA.

Any a person to whom a licence has been granted under section 7(2) of the Gas Act 1986.

Northern Gas Networks,
1100 Century Way,
Thorp Business Park,
Colton,
Leeds,
LS15 8TU.

Sewerage undertaker

New Development Team (Planning),
Northumbrian Water Limited,
Leat House,
Pattinson Road,
Washington,
Tyne and Wear,
NE38 8LB.

Water undertaker

New Development Team (Planning),
Northumbrian Water Limited,
Leat House,
Pattinson Road,
Washington,
Tyne and Wear,
NE38 8LB.

Any person to whom the electronic communications code applies

Mono Consultants,
48 St. Vincent Street,
Glasgow,
Lanarkshire,
G2 5TS.

Any person who owns or controls electronic communications apparatus situated in any part of the area of the local planning authority

Avonline,
42 Ashton Vale Road,
Ashton Vale,
Bristol,
BS3 2AX.
Email: info@avonline.co.uk
Office: 0117 953 1111
Fax: 0117 953 0307

British Telecommunications Plc.,
Openreach Newsites PP 4AB,
21-23 Carliol Square,
Newcastle CTE,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE1 1BB.

Cybermoor,
Town Hall,
Front Street,
Alston,
CA9 3RF.
Tel.: 01434 382808
Email: info@cybermoor.org.uk

Everything Everywhere Limited,
Hatfield Business Park,
Hertfordshire,
Hatfield,
AL10 9BW.

Hutchinson 3G UK Limited,
Star House,
20 Grenfell Road,
Maidenhead,
Berkshire,
SL6 1EH.

Orange Personal Communications Services Ltd.,
Media House,
Bartley Wood Business Park,
Hook,
Hampshire,
RG27 9UP.

T Mobile (UK) Limited (Property),
Hatfield Business Park,
Frobisher Way,
Hertfordshire,
Hatfield,
AL10 9SL.

Telefonica UK Limited,
260 Bath Road,
Berkshire,
Slough,
SL1 4DX.

Virgin Media Limited,
St James Court,
Great Park Road,
Almondsbury Park,
Bradley Stoke,
Bristol,
BS32 4QJ.

Vodafone Limited,
Vodafone House,
The Connection,
Berkshire,
Newbury,
RG14 2FN.

Wildcard Networks,
Reliance House,
Skinnerburn Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE4 7AN.

Community Facilities/Education.

Children's Services

Daljit Lally

Executive Director of Wellbeing & Community Health Services (including Children's Services)
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

Maurice Hall

Head Teacher
Duchess's Community High School
Howling Lane
Alnwick
NE66 1DH
admin@dchs-alnwick.org

Mrs S Hall

Acting Head Teacher
Lindisfarne Middle School
Lindisfarne Road
Alnwick
NE66 1AX
Admin@lindisfarne.northumberland.sch.uk

Dawn Morton

Head Teacher
The Dukes Middle School
Hope House Lane
Alnwick
NE66 1UN
admin@dukes.northumberland.sch.uk

Mrs J. E. Smith

Head Teacher
Swansfield Park First School
The Avenue,
Alnwick
Northumberland,
NE66 1UL
admin@alnicksouth.northumberland.sch.uk

Mr Gavin Johnston

Head Teacher
St Michael's C of E First School
Howling Lane
Alnwick
Northumberland
admin@stmichaelsalnwick.northumberland.sch.uk

Maria Wilson

Head Teacher
St Paul's Federation of Schools

South Road
Alnwick,
Northumberland
NE66 2NU
admin@stpaulsrcvafirst.northumberland.sch.uk

Colin Bradshaw

Head Teacher
Barndale House School
Howling Lane
Alnwick
Northumberland
NE66 1DQ
Admin@barndalehouse.northumberland.sch.uk

S. Stafford

Manager
The Pottergate Centre
Howling Lane
Alnwick
NE66 1DJ
pottergate.centre@btconnect.com

Cathy Jacobs

Lindisfarne Adult Learning Centre
Lindisfarne Road,
Alnwick,
NE66 1AX

Hannah Moeini

Centre Manager
Alnwick Community Centre
Howling Lane
Alnwick
NE66 1DJ
hannah.moeini@northumberland.gov.uk

Steve Barrigan

North Area Senior Practitioner
Youth Services
Alnwick Community Centre
Howling Lane
Alnwick
NE66 1DJ
steve.barrigan@northumberland.gov.uk

Jacqui Gibb

Manager
Alnwick SureStart Childrens Centre
Howling Lane
Alnwick
NE66 1DJ
Jaqui.Gibb@northumberland.gov.uk

Chair of Trustees

Lionheart Radio
The Centre
27 Fenkle Street
Alnwick
Northumberland
NE66 1HW
studio@lionheartradio.com

Jo Potts

Alnwick Playhouse
Bondgate Within
Alnwick
NE66 1PQ
info@alnwickplayhouse.co.uk

Deb Still

Age UK Northumberland
The Round House
Lintonville Parkway
Ashington
Northumberland
NE63 9JZ
info@ageuk-northumberland.org.uk

Lisa Lowes

Manager
Rainbow Day Nursery (Alnwick) Ltd,
Northumberland Street,
Alnwick
Northumberland
NE66 1LT
info@rainbowdn.co.uk

Tony Brown

Practise Manager
The Bondgate Practice
Infirmary Close
Alnwick
Northumberland
NE66 2NL

Dr C J Stevenson

Infirmary Drive Medical Group
The Consulting Rooms
Infirmary Drive
Alnwick
Northumberland
NE66 2NR

David Francis

Director, Community Action Northumberland
UNIUN Enterprise Building,
Front Street,
Pegswood,

Morpeth,
Northumberland.
NE61 6RG
davidfrancis@ca-north.org.uk

Julia Lyford

Company Secretary
Northumberland Community Development Network
Bell View Resource Centre.
33 West Street.
Belford.
Northumberland
NE70 7QB
julia@ncdn.org

Francis Lyford

SPLINTER Group
13,Cawledge View
Alnwick
Northumberland
NE66 1BH
f.lyford@aol.com

Nicola Day

The Fusiliers Museum of Northumberland,
Abbots Tower,
Alnwick Castle,
Alnwick,
Northumberland,
NE66 1NG
activitiesfusnorthld@aol.co.uk

Sandra Green

Alnwick & District CAB
First Floor
Valuation Office Building
Wagonway Road
Alnwick
NE66 1QL
alnwickcab@alnwick.f9.co.uk

Chris Friend/Rev. David Archer

Alnwick Baptist Church
Lisburn Street,
Alnwick,
Northumberland.
NE66 1UR
info@alnwickbaptist.org.uk

Joan Grindod-Helmn

Minister
St James's URC
St James's Church Centre
Pottergate

Alnwick
NE66 1JW
minister@urc-stjames-alnwick.org.uk

Revd Keith Osborn/Revd Pauline Fellows

Alnwick Methodist Church
Chapel Lane,
Alnwick,
Northumberland
NE66 1XT

Fr Phil Carroll

St Paul's R.C. Church
3, Prudhoe Villas,
Alnwick,
NE66 1UP
stpaulsalnwick@aol.com

Rev. Paul Scott/ Rev. Julie Myles

St Michaels Church,
Bailliffgate,
Alnwick,
Northumberland
NE66 1LY
stmichaelandstpaul@btconnect.com

Paul Kiddell

North Country Leisure
Willowburn Sports & Leisure Centre
Willowburn Avenue
Alnwick

The Secretary

Alnwick & District Sports Council
c/o Willowburn Sports & Leisure Centre
Alnwick

Transport Groups

AGE UK NORTJUMBERLAND

The Round House
Lintonville Parkway, ASHINGTON, NE63 9JZ
Email: info@ageuk-northumberland.org.uk

ALN VALLEY RAILWAY

Chairman: Martin Robinson, Email: toftsbank@btinternet.com
Secretary: Mark Hayton, Email: secretary@alnvalleyrailway.co.uk

ALNMOUTH RAIL USER GROUP

Chairman: Murray Davies, E: murray_davies@btinternet.com
Secretary: Jean Barr, E: jeanwbarr@btinternet.com

BUS OPERATORS**ARRIVA PLC, ARRIVA NORTH EAST**

Admiral Way, Doxford International Business Park, SUNDERLAND, SR3 3XP

TRAVELSURE

Station Road, BELFORD, Northumberland, NE70 7DT

Email: travelsure@travelsure.co.uk

PUBLIC TRANSPORT,

Sustainable transport section; Northumberland County Council

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**NEED Ltd**

Alnwick Fire Station,

South Road, ALNWICK, NE66 2PA

Email: info@needltd.co.uk

Coordination: Northumberland County Council**CONFEDERATION OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT** (Private coach trade association)

Regional Manager – Northern: David Holding,

Email: davidh@cpt-uk.org Land and Business A

COUNTRY LAND AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION LIMITED

North Office: Aske Stables, Aske, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 5HG,

Email: north@cla.org.uk

Director North, Dorothy Fairburn; Email: dorothy.fairburn@cla.org.uk

CTC, THE NATIONAL CYCLING CHARITY

Secretary (North East): Heather Evans, Email: heatherevans.ctc@virgin.net

FREIGHT TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

Northern Region: Malcolm Bingham,

Email: mbingham@fta.co.uk

LIVING STREETS

Tyneside Area: Colin Green,

Email: green43@talktalk.net

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION

Northumberland County Adviser: Richard Potts,

Email: richard.potts@nfu.org.uk

NECTAR (North East Combined Transport Activists Roundtable)

Dr N Best, Policy Officer, 24 Northbourne Avenue, MORPETH, NE61 1JG

Email: nickel@globalnet.co.uk

NORTHUMBERLAND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Headquarters

West Hartford Business Park, CRAMLINGTON, Northumberland, NE23 3JP

Email: FireReception@northumberland.gov.uk

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Headquarters

North Road, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 0BL

PASSENGER FOCUS

Passenger Team Director: David Sidebottom,

Email: david.sidebottom@passengerfocus.org.uk

RAC FOUNDATION,

89-91 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5HS. Tel: 020 7747 3445.

Email: info@racfoundation.org

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

Secretary, Alnwick Group: Linda Law,

Email: ralmlaw@tiscali.co.uk

ROYAL MAIL

Group Communications Royal Mail Group, 100 Victoria Embankment, LONDON, EC4Y 0HQ

<http://www.royalmailgroup.com>

Alnwick Delivery Office

Greensfield Estate, Willowburn Avenue, ALNWICK, NE66 2DD

SUSTRANS

North East, Daniel Sheppard,

Email: Daniel.Sheppard@sustrans.org.uk

TRAIN OPERATING COMPANIES**NORTHERN RAIL**

Client & Stakeholder Manager: Pete Myers, Email: Pete.Myers@northernrail.org

CROSSCOUNTRY TRAINS

Head of Communications: Richard Gibson, Email: Richard.Gibson@crosscountrytrains.co.uk

EAST COAST MAIN LINE COMPANY

Head of Communications: Neal Smith, Email: neal.smith@eastcoast.co.uk

Environmental Groups**Alnwick Wildlife Group –**

Colin Scrutton,

2, The Rise, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE3 4LT

Northumberland Wildlife Trust –

Duncan Hutt,

Garden House, St Nicholas Park,

Jubilee Road, Gosforth,

Newcastle-upon-Tyne,

NE3 3XT

Aln Valley Railway Trust -

Lionheart Railway Station,

Lionheart Enterprise Park,
Alnwick Northumberland NE66 2EZ

Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth –

Lisa Bellamy,
Swansfield Stables,
Alnwick, NE66 1EJ

Alnwick in Bloom –

Elizabeth Jones,
30 Upper Howick Street,
Alnwick, NE66 1UZ

Economic/Tourism Contacts

Northumberland Estates

Colin Barnes
Alnwick Castle, Estates Office
Alnwick

Alnwick Chamber of Trade –

Carlo Bagioni,
7-9 Market St,
Alnwick NE66 1SS

Alnwick Markets

c/o Local Living,
27 Fenkle Street
Alnwick NE66 1HW

Alnwick Civic Society

c/o Peter Ennor,
Prudhoe Street
Alnwick

Councillors on Alnwick Town Council and Denwick Parish Council

Residents - Community Partnership

Sandra Renforth	76 Allerburn Lea	NE66 2NQ
Anne Shilton	12 St Georges Cres, Alnwick	NE66 1AY
MR N A ADDY	8 PRUDHOE STREET	
MR N A ADDY	8 PRUDHOE STREET	NE661UW
Gary Easton	22 Westgate House, Alnwick	NE66 1XP
Mrs K Swinbank	62, Chapel Lands, Alnwick, Northumberland	NE66 1ER
	2, The Steadings, Christon Bank, Alnwick, Northumberland	NE66 1HW
Julie Shackleton		
Bruce Hewison + Jeannette Hewison	West Acre House, West Acres, Alnwick	NE66 2QA
Mrs Elizabeth Jones	30 Upper Howick Street Alnwick	NE66 1UZ

Mr G Hall	15 Bridge Street, Alnwick, Northumberland	NE66 1RY
Mrs Diane Mortimer	14 Merchants Gardens, Alnwick	NE66 1BZ
Victoria Ballan	8 Percy Tce, Alnwick	NE66 1AF
Mrs Ruth Dickinson	17 Denwick Village	NE66 3RE
Steven Kerr	50 Arkle Court, Alnwick	NE66 1BS
Mr Kenneth Burns	6 Baliffgate Court, Baliffgate, Alnwick	NE66 1LY
David Farrar	50 Swansfield Park Road, Alnwick	NE66 1AR
Ms Jennifer Macdowell	2 Beaconsfield Terrace, Alnwick	NE66 1BX
Mr Ron Bernstein	4a Ogle Terrace, Alnwick	NE66 1XS
S Bucknell	6 Dodds Lane, Alnwick	NE66 1AD
Celie Nicol-Meap	6 Long Row, Embleton Mill	NE66 3DS
Barbara Woodward	102 Windsor Gardens, Alnwick,	NE66 1LR
Penelope N. Perkins	6 Ravensmede	NE66 2PX
Mr D George	35, Upper Howick st, Alnwick	NE66 1UZ
R.G Alcock	15 Sprignfield Park, Alnwick	NE66 2NH
David Lovie	2 Chapel Lane, Alnwick, Northumberland,	NE66 1XT
Sheila Cartwright	24 Upper Howick Street, Alnwick	NE66 1UZ
Prof and Mrs R E Allsop	1 Prudhoe Street, Alnwick	NE66 1UW
Maria Manion	69 Allerburn Lea, Alnwick	NE66 2NQ
Paul Russell	4 Allerburn Lea, Alnwick	NE66 2NJ
Katherine Williams	Crag View Cottage, Alnmouth Road, Alnwick	NE66 2QG
Philip Angier	Luraine House, Percy Terrace	NE66 1AF
Mrs E Angier	Lovaine House, Percy Terrace, Alnwick	NE66 1AF
Mrs Brenda Burdis	32 The Dunterns, Alnwick	NE66 1AN
David Nicholson	24 Simonside View, Rothbury	NE65 7YQ
Simon Holmes	1 Narrowgate Court, Alnwick	NE66 1HL
Iris Symmonds	109 Allerburn Lea, Alnwick	NE66 2QP
Janis Crook	6 Bondgate Within, Alnwick	NE66 1PP
Kate Laverick	14 Springfield, Longhoughton, Alnwick	NE66 3NT
James Westmell	3 Castle Terrace, Warkworth	NE65 0UP
Freya Stone	School House, Dispensary Street, Alnwick	NE66 1LS
Kieran Renner	c/o Gallery Youth, 5 Coronation Crescent, Belford	NE70 7NU
Mr M A Broch	20 Allerburn Lea, Alnwick	NE66 2NJ
Mr & Mrs Waterstone	174 Allerburn Lea Alnwick	NE66 2QR



Will Alnwick still top the polls in 2031?

In 2031 it will be almost 30 years since Alnwick was voted the most attractive place to live in England by Country Life magazine. Other accolades swiftly followed. But can Alnwick sustain its premier ranking as a place to live, to work and to raise a family?

The Alnwick & Denwick Neighbourhood Plan sets out the agenda for our locality from now until 2031, and how we can help shape its future. Consultation about the draft Plan continues until the end of September. This week's article looks at some of the issues affecting housing, opportunities for younger people and community facilities.

Housing

Alnwick is a popular and attractive place to live and to retire to. As a result there is a healthy demand for housing from outside the area as well as from expected growth in the number of households locally. House prices remain relatively high and a continuing gap between household incomes and house prices means that many local people are unable to purchase or rent property on the open market – a particular problem for young people.

“We are not at the moment meeting all of our housing needs,” says Peter Biggers, author of the Housing chapter in the draft Plan. *“The Neighbourhood Plan is a response to that situation. It offers an estimate of the number of new homes required up until 2031, and the type of housing required.”* The draft Plan proposes a target of 1,000 new homes in the neighbourhood area between 2011 and 2031 (approx. 50 new homes per year) including a choice of sizes, types and tenure of quality housing particularly creating opportunities for young people and the elderly. Some of those new homes have already completed and others is in the pipeline.

A key role for the Plan is both to propose where land might be allocated to accommodate future housing needs and to set the policies which will ensure that development is consistent with the character and natural environment of the area. It is also important that development is undertaken at a pace which matches the employment opportunities and service capacity of the town.

Addressing the needs of Younger People

The average age of those coming to live in Alnwick is rising. That in itself is not a bad thing since they often bring with them a higher disposable income. However, the Plan notes *“affordable housing is important in helping to retain younger population and in recruiting staff, particularly younger or lower skilled workers on whom the tourism and caring professions depend. Both sectors are significant employers in the Alnwick economy. The Plan will address this position by increasing the amount of affordable housing and seeking to deliver smaller housing units appealing to the younger and first time buyers who wish to live and work in the district.”*

Access to first class educational facilities is an aspiration of every community. The relocation of the Duchess High School to a new site on the southern perimeter of the town will be both an opportunity for the town to ensure that the best available educational facilities are offered to local families, and to ensure that the town centre site, once vacated, is redeveloped in line with the Plan’s highest aspirations. The Housing, Town Centre and Community Facilities chapters of the Plan all identify this as an early priority.

Education and employment opportunities for young people are both essential for a vibrant and sustainable community. *“Without adequate provision for younger people in the Plan,”* says a High School pupil interviewed for the DVD accompanying the draft Plan, *“people will move away, and the young population of Alnwick will decline.”*

Community Facilities

“It is so important in the Plan that we get the right balance for Alnwick and Denwick for the needs of the people in the future,” adds Sue Patience, leader of the community consultation of the Plan. *“Holding on to our community facilities is very important for our future.”*

Alnwick and Denwick play an important role as a centre for community facilities which service a larger hinterland population. A sustainable future means that existing service levels must be maintained and new services are encouraged to accommodate the expected growth of population.

The nine policy recommendations and seven community action plan proposals which form the Community Facilities chapter of the Plan respond to the public’s feedback to the earlier Issues & Options questionnaire. They cover aspects as diverse as outside sport and leisure, health facilities, provision for young people, and public toilets.

“One of the best aspects of the Plan,” says Philip Angier, a member of the Steering Group, *”has been the way in which different people and different groups have come together to work up a set of integrated proposals for the future of the Alnwick and Denwick. Now we want your feedback about the draft Plan.”*

Feedback Forms

The Steering Committee hopes that local residents will participate in the local consultation events and view the Draft Plan on the website. Feedback forms have been delivered to every household in the Plan area. Next year every adult resident will get the chance to vote on the Plan in a referendum. As long as more than half of those who vote approve the plan, it will be adopted. That means planners and councillors will have to take local people’s views into account in future.

This is a Plan about the future of your community – make your voice count.

The full text of the Draft Plan will be available to read online at
www.alnwick-and-denwick-plan.org.uk

ADNP – Thursday 18th September 2014

Evening 6pm -8.30pm, St James's Church Centre

Attendance List

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Philip Angier	Local Living
Madeline Russell	Alnwick Guides
Frances Allsop	Resident
Mike & Gina Christian	Residents
Ronnie Baird	Cussins -Developer
Gavin Johnstone & Janice Ramezanpour	St Michael's School
Adriene Rowley & Mike Gunning	Age UK
Jan Anderson, Sharon Spurling, Suzanne Stanley	Newton on the Moor /Swarland Parish Council
Joan Grimrod Helm	St James Church
David Taylor	Alnwick Chamber of Trade
Fiona Yeoman	Resident
Colin Wakeling	Travelsure
Alasdair & Shelia Pratt	Residents
Ron Bernstein and Tom Spence	Aln Valley Railway
Rosalee Cooke-Jury	Resident
Liz Juppenlatz	Student Researcher
Heather Cairns	NCC Councillor
Peter Ennor	Civic Society
Kate Cairns	County Councillor
Richard McKenzie)	NCC Highways & Transport
Linda Veron	NCC Education
Chris Frater	Resident
David Turnbull	Resident
Susan & Stanley Trafford	Residents
Mr & Mrs H Taylor	Residents
Susan Bell	Resident
Councillor J and Mrs Humphries	Town Councillor and resident
Mr & Mrs M Buchanan	Residents
Councillor Pat Holt	Town Councillor
Peter Rutherford	NCC- Planning
Kevin Bartlett	NCC-Localty
Councillor Alan Symmonds	Town Councillor

PROGRAMME FOR DISCUSSION EVENING ON THE CONSULTATION DRAFT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Thursday 18 September 2014 – 6.00 – c 8.30pm

St James Church Hall, Pottergate, Alnwick

6.00 Refreshments, Introductions and Welcome by **The Mayor Bill Grisedale**

6.30 Progress on the plan to reach the consultation draft **Peter Biggers**

An introduction to the consultation stage so far **Sue Patience and Bill Batey**

6.50 Discussion Groups looking at specific topics of the plan– **Group tables led by topic leads.**

You will be asked to choose two topic areas on which you wish to discuss plan proposals from the following:

- Housing and population – **Peter Biggers**
- Economy, , retail and town centre – **Colin Barnes & Philip Angier**
- Community Facilities – **Sue Patience, Roy Todd & Bill Batey**
- Environment – **Rachael Roberts**
- Heritage and Culture – **David Lovie**
- Transport – **Martin Murphy**

You will spend 30 minutes discussing your 1st choice topic considering which proposals you are happy with , which are non-negotiable which need to be amended then move to a second topic and spend a further 30 minutes discussing that in the same way.

7.50 ADNP Questiontime – A panel of topic leads chaired by **Chris Anderson of Planning Aid** will answer your questions. This is your opportunity to ask particular questions about the plan so bring these along and hand them in when you arrive.

8.15 The evening will finish with everyone being asked to take part in electronic voting to consider how sustainable the plan proposals are in terms of environmental, economic and social outcomes.

8.30 Close

There will be the opportunity for asking any questions of topic leads on a one to one basis between 8.30 and 9.00.



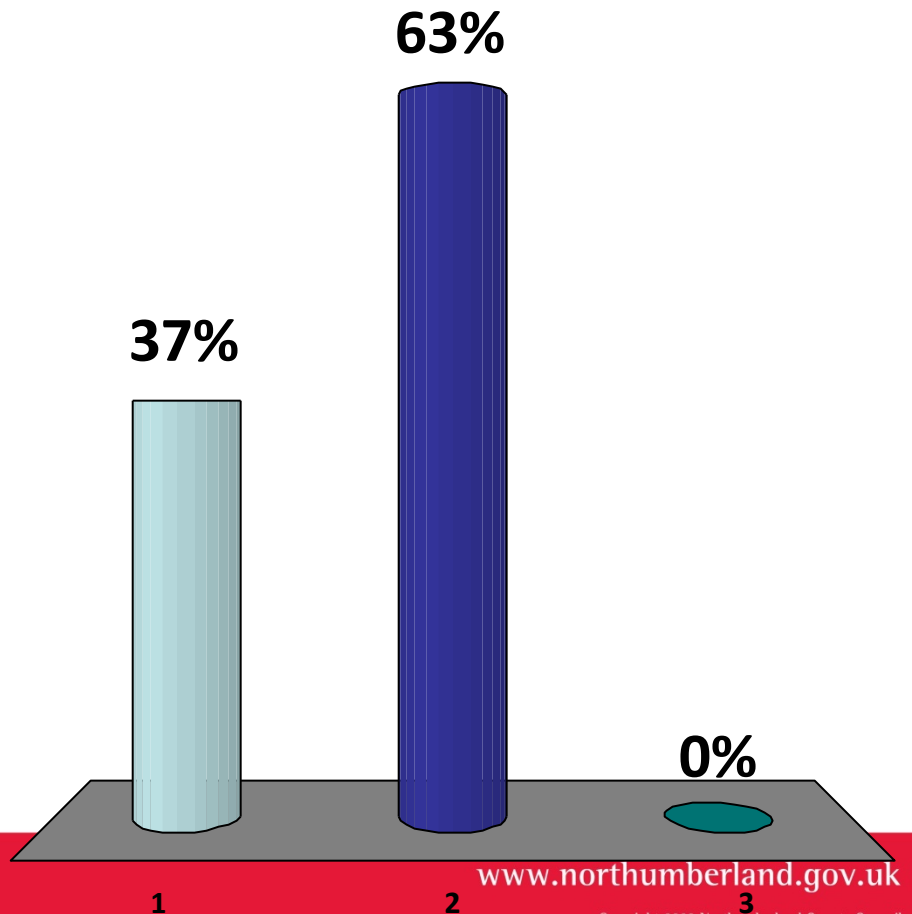
Northumberland County Council

Alnwick & Denwick Neighbourhood Plan

Discussion Workshop

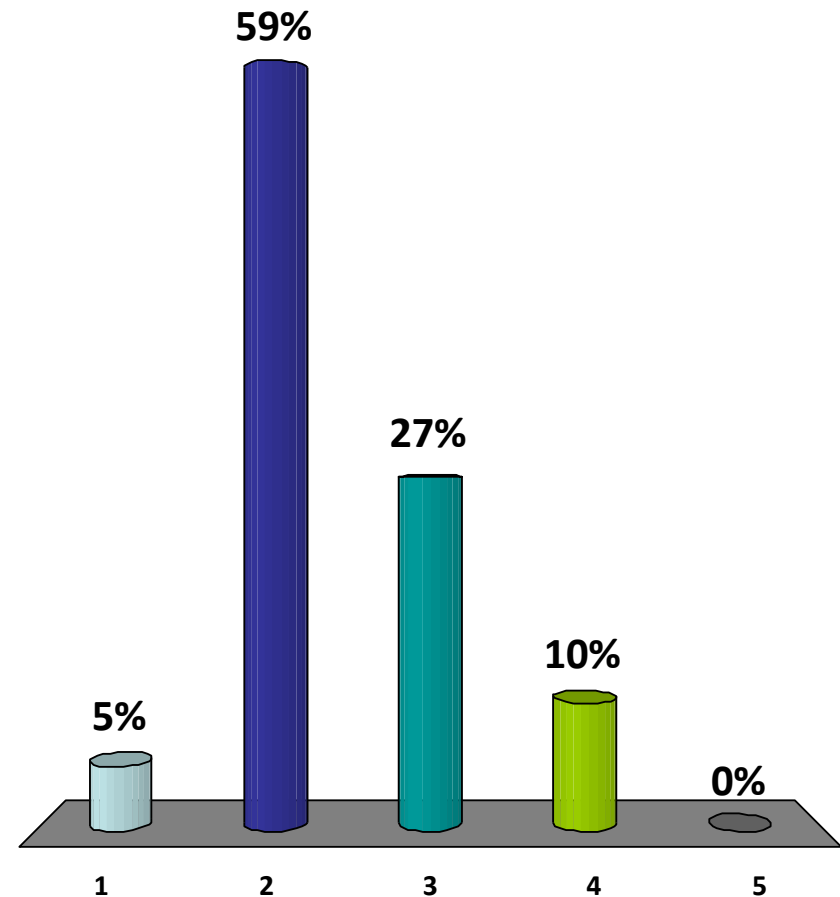
Have you found the presentation useful?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Undecided



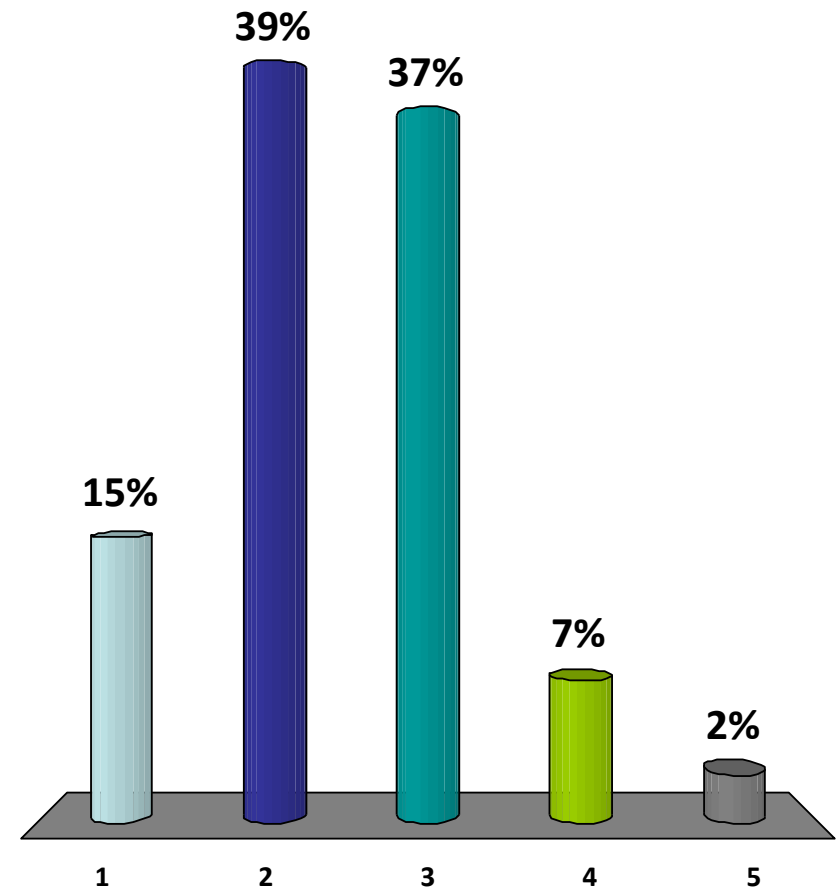
How successful do you consider the plan would be in securing a sound economic future for Alnwick and Denwick?

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree



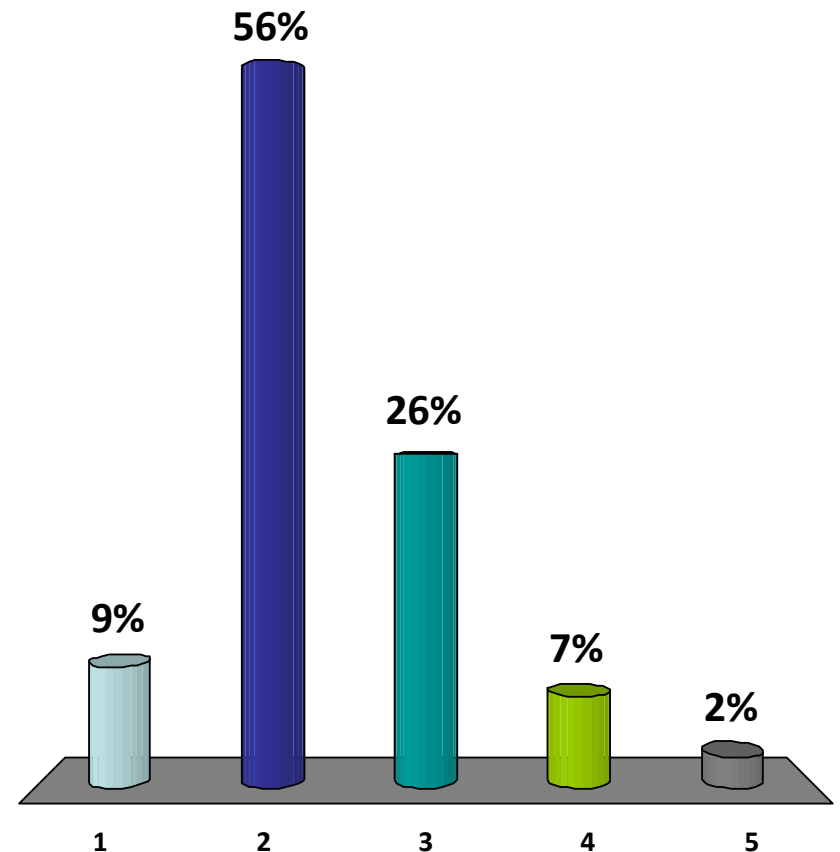
How successful do you consider the plan would be in securing a sound social future for Alnwick and Denwick?

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree



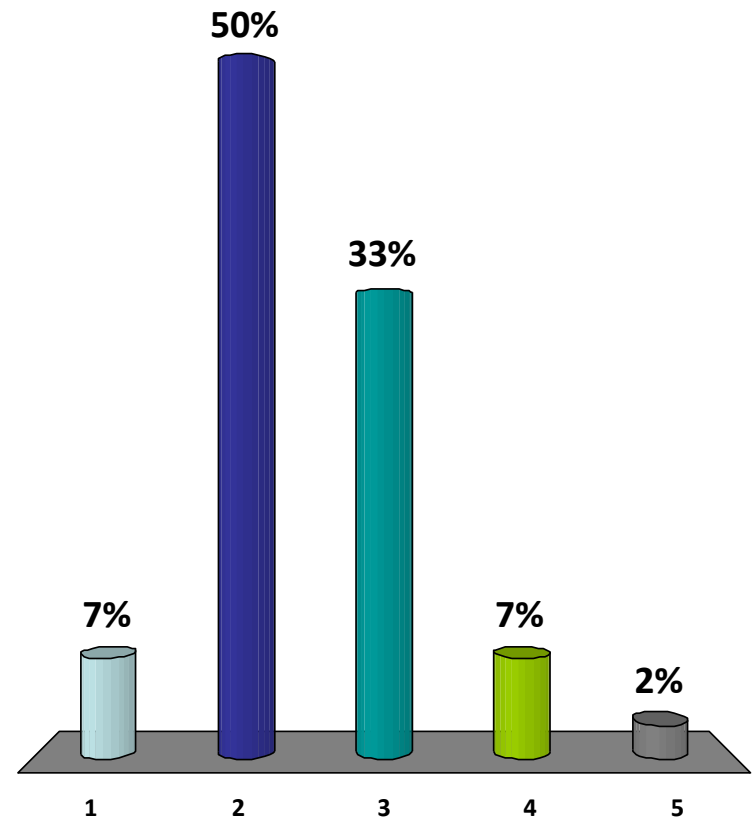
How successful do you consider the plan would be in protecting and improving the environmental future for Alnwick and Denwick?

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree



How successful do you consider the plan is likely to be in improving the overall quality of life for residents of the plan area?

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree



4.5 Comments and Changes to the Draft Plan

(December 2014 to July 2015)

1 Response Table

This is a separate Excel file which accompanies this document pdf.