

# The Parish of Ford Northumberland



Ford



Etal



Crookham

## A Parish Plan – 2004

## Why a Parish Plan?

This Parish Plan has been produced as the result of an initiative by the Countryside Agency published in March 2003 and itself derived from a Rural White Paper entitled *Our countryside - the future*.

The following statements are taken from the initiative:

“Parish plans have the potential to influence a wide range of organisations and processes which affect the lives of rural communities”.

“A Parish Plan is a statement of how the community sees itself developing over the next few years. It:

- reflects the views of all sections of the community;
- identifies which features and local characteristics people value;
- identifies local problems and opportunities;
- spells out how residents want the community to develop in the future;
- prepares a plan of action to achieve this vision.”

Ford Parish Council has received funding from the Countryside Agency to produce this Parish Plan and it produced and distributed a questionnaire last summer (2003) which was available to every person in the parish.

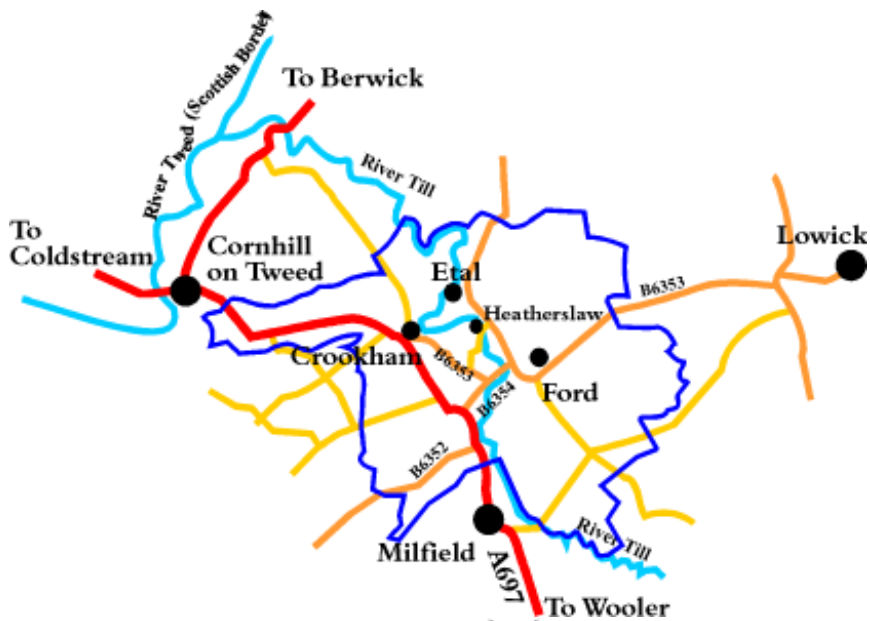
The objective of the plan is to find out community views and requirements, to collate the information and to apply the results for the benefit of the community. Social, environmental and economic factors have been considered throughout the survey. A 50% return rate was achieved for the survey, which is considered to be high.

In producing this report the Parish Council wishes to:

- present a picture of the parish as it is in 2004;
- set out the results of the questionnaire;
- present an action plan with some targets to achieve in the next few years.

It will form a basis of our applications for funding future projects.

# Map of the Parish



# Authority, Geography and Population.

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The Parish of Ford in the Borough of Berwick upon Tweed, is within the 'Glendale' group of parishes and is situated in the valley of the River Till eight miles north of Wooler and twelve miles south-west of Berwick upon Tweed. It includes the three villages of Ford, Etal and Crookham and also the dispersed settlement of Heatherslaw.

The River Till bisects the parish flowing South to North and is a tributary of the River Tweed which here forms the English-Scottish boundary. The Till itself is a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and comes under the governance of the Tweed Commisioners (and others) which has its headquarters near Galashiels in the Scottish Borders.

The total area of the parish is 4,742 hectares (11,712 acres) and there are around 30 farm premises. This equates to an area of 18.3 square miles and Ford Parish measures approximately 5 miles from North to South by 3 miles from East to West. The rolling landscape covers arable and grassland fields interspersed by woodland and lies between heights of 25 and 171 metres. Agriculture, forestry and tourism are the three main industries together with a number of craft workshops and a racing stable.

The resident population of Ford, as measured in the 2001 census, was 948. Ford Parish therefore has about 52 people per square mile.

A survey in 1998<sup>†</sup> gave a population density of 71 per square mile for the Borough of Berwick upon Tweed as a whole, itself one of the lowest in the country. As an urban comparison the population density of the district of Southwark in London in the same survey, an area of 11 square miles, was given as 20,736 per square mile. This rural area of North Northumberland has one of the lowest population densities in England.

Historically, the population of Ford in the 1881 census appears to have been 1,589.

The parish is served by electricity and telephone from over the border in Scotland and by the Postal Service from both Scotland and England. The fact that most postcodes (TD12) are 'Scottish' can result in some anomalies when service companies base their systems on post codes but their operating staff 'refuse' to cross the border!

999 calls from more than half the parish are routed to Hawick in Scotland

but the police, ambulance and fire services are based in Wooler, nine miles away to the south; Wooler police are themselves a sub-station of Berwick upon Tweed 12 miles away and are controlled from Ponteland, over 50 miles away. The water authority is Northumbrian Water.

## Villages and Settlements.

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The three villages contribute to the widely dispersed nature of the population.

### Ford

Ford village lies to the East of the River Till on the B6353 road. Ford is characterised by a steep bank leading through the village. A 30 mph speed limit is in force.

The Hugh Joicey Church of England Aided First School is the only school in the parish. It currently has two classes, a total of approx. 35 children. Ford is 'an estate village' and has a Church of England church and churchyard, a combined shop and Post Office, a public telephone box and there are public toilets (open March to October).



Lady Waterford Hall

Tourists are attracted to Ford by the Lady Waterford Hall which houses the famous collection of murals by Louisa, Marchioness of Waterford who lived locally in Ford Castle between 1859 and 1891. The building also serves as the village hall. Concerts and lectures are held and a village carpet bowling club plays in the hall. Ford Castle is now used by Northumberland County Council as a field education facility and a centre for adult education courses. The castle is licensed for civil weddings.

Ford also has a plant nursery, an art gallery, an antiquarian bookseller, a pottery, bed and breakfast businesses and the Ford and Etal Estate offices (see p. 8). A farm is based in the village.

There are limited recreation facilities for children in the village.

26% of the survey respondents live in Ford village.

## **Etal**

Etal village is also an ‘estate village’ and lies to the east of the Till just off the B6354 road to Berwick upon Tweed. There is a combined Post Office / shop and tea rooms.

The village has an historic small Church of England church within the grounds of Etal Manor which is used for worship during the winter months, alternating with Ford Church (see p. 3). There is a public telephone box, and a village hall, which has a computer room with fast access to the internet. The village hall requires some updating to comply with disabled access regulations. There is a cricket club and ground.



**The Black Bull, Etal**

The village also contains The Black Bull, the only thatched roofed public house in Northumberland, a plant nursery, and craftsmen furniture makers.

Tourists are attracted to Etal by the castle and interpretation centre, managed by English Heritage and by the Heatherslaw to Etal Light Railway which runs from Easter to October along the banks of the Till. This is a popular trip with families who have an opportunity to see wild-life along the banks of the river.



**Etal Castle**

15% of survey respondents live in Etal.

## **Heatherslaw**

Heatherslaw is a dispersed settlement lying to the west of the Till and in addition to being the base of the Light Railway there are, open from Easter to October, a water driven corn mill which grinds flour for baking, a shop and tearooms. Here also is a visitor centre with information and a video of estate activities. Bicycles can be hired for local use by families.

A thriving bakery, which operates all year, supplies biscuits, cakes and a range of bakery products to outlets across the north of England and the south of Scotland and provides valued local employment.

Several houses and a farm lie on a narrow C road which crosses the River Till at Heatherslaw over an iron bridge with weight and width restrictions, and which itself is a listed building structure.



Heatherslaw Water Mill

4% of survey respondents live at Heatherslaw.

### **Crookham**

Crookham lies on either side of the popular B6353 readjust to the east of the main A697 road. It lies to the west of the River Till. There has been a relatively recent housing development of eight new houses within the village.

There is a United Reform Church, and a village hall with a billiard room. Regular whist drives and 'Village Evenings' are held once a month.

There is a telephone exchange (not broadband), a part time Post Office and a public telephone box.

There are bed and breakfast businesses, a joinery and undertakers business and a farm in the village. A small hotel / guesthouse and the Blue Bell public house are situated close to the village.

This mainly residential village has a 30mph speed limit but suffers from through traffic of heavy lorries on what is a comparatively narrow road. On-street car parking is a problem, especially when a Church or Village Hall event is held.

Crookham has no recreational areas for children.

17% of survey respondents live in Crookham.

### **Other settlements**

35% of respondents (the highest figure) do not live in a village.

The Parish of Ford also has a wide range of commercial activities which includes a sawmill, motor engineer, smithy, leather goods craftsman, wood turner, agricultural engineers, livery stables, recycling business, vegetable packing, architectural salvage, a rosette manufacturer and gardening services. These are all situated away from the villages.

## Pros and Cons

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### The problem of three villages.

Three villages do not offer the critical mass that one village would provide. For example Cornhill on Tweed, Norham and Lowick are good local examples of one-village parishes.

Requirements and resources are triplicated. There are three village halls, three churches and three locations for public transport to service instead of one location. Furthermore, each village retains its independent spirit.

Children and parents, middle aged and retired people live in all of the villages.

78% of respondents thought that Ford Parish is well looked after and 76% that their own village is well looked after.

## Roads and Transportation

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Ford Parish is only accessible by road. The main A697 road leading from England to Scotland runs for five miles through Ford Parish. The B6353 and B6354 run through the Parish and lead to Berwick upon Tweed, Lowick and the A1 trunk road. All roads in the Parish are the responsibility of Northumberland County Council and are in a poor state of repair.



Ford Bridge

A considerable amount of heavy commercial traffic passes through Ford and Crookham to use the river crossing point at Ford Bridge. Speeding traffic is a concern for the residents of Ford and Crookham villages and for 45% of all respondents.

While it is easy to be critical of the roads and drivers' use of them, roads are very important within Ford Parish. The amount of tourist and other business generated from traffic on the A697 is significant to Ford Parish.

A bus service operates (Wooler to Berwick) through all three villages and provides six return trips per day during the week and four per day at weekends.

## Housing

There is a broad range of housing available in the Parish. The vast majority of housing stock is owned by the two major landowners and rented out to tenants, resulting in a rather lower age profile than may be found in similar rural parishes where the majority of housing is owner-occupied.



New housing at Crookham

A consequence of the low incidence of owner-occupation is that houses are sold fairly infrequently and those wishing to purchase property have often to move away from the Parish.

Although some cottages are now used for holiday lets, there are relatively few second homes compared with neighbouring parishes. Some of the larger properties are used as bed-and-breakfast businesses.

There are no Council or Housing Association properties, nor is there any supported accommodation. Those seeking sheltered housing have to leave the Parish. There have only been about 10 new houses built in the last 30 years, and there have been no redundant farm buildings converted to houses. Almost all of the new-build has been in Crookham.

Nevertheless, in general, property appears to be in good repair with 85% of survey respondents expressing satisfaction with their houses; of the 15% expressing dissatisfaction, 5% (of total respondents) cited "poor state of repair" as a reason.

# Ford and Etal Estates

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The villages of the Parish of Ford are at the “heart” of the Ford and Etal Estates, owned since 1908 by the Joicey family, a traditional agricultural estate of 6,000 hectares (15,000 acres) comprising tenanted and ‘in-hand’ farms. The villages themselves were once, like countless other villages, exclusively places where almost all the residents were employed on the estate itself, but times have changed as a result of many developments.



Riding on Ford Moss

North Northumberland and the Scottish Borders is still an area dominated by old landed estates, on both sides of the border. These estates hold the cards in the creation and sustainability of the rural economy and rural employment. The villages must however be “living” places, and that means thriving, balanced, rural employment.

In the mid 1970s, tourism became a potential source of income. The water-mill at Heatherslaw was restored and several redundant buildings were let to entrepreneurs directly associated with tourism. But tourism is seasonal. Opportunities for year-round sustainable employment in our very rural area are not often achieved by tourism.

Since the mid 1980s, the Estates have let redundant buildings to those whose principal activity lies outside tourism, and who have an independent, year-round market for their goods and services. Tourism is seen as an added extra, a bit of “cream on the cake”, the visitors are welcome to look round workshops, with some (occasionally significant) extra trade generated.

The tenants of these buildings are experts in their own businesses. The Estates are simply the landlord, facilitating the creation and development of small rural businesses. Visitor numbers have risen steadily, and several opportunities for employment have been created in the villages to cater for these numbers. There are currently 31 micro-businesses and attractions operating on the Estates, which operates a joint marketing campaign on behalf of most of them, marketing Ford & Etal as an

“umbrella” destination, and leaving visitors the choice of how to spend their day.

Ford and Etal Estates recognise that too much promotion and development of purely tourist-orientated features could destroy the countryside and its attractions. The villages remain places in which people live and work. To encourage and sustain a healthy village community, with school, post office, village hall, etc., a village itself must maintain its own identity, and not become a “museum”. Employment through micro-businesses and attractions now exceeds employment in the traditional estate sectors (forestry, gamekeeping, etc.)

## Forestry

The forestry interests of the Ford and Etal Estate extend to approximately 1,500 acres (600 hectares) of woodland, mainly conifer. Hardwood mixtures (at least 20%) have been planted over the last 25 years or so.

Approximately 1,000 acres were felled during the Second World War; the subsequent postwar plantings are now approaching maturity. Much of the woodland was originally planted for shelter, sporting and amenity purposes with some of the larger blocks being commercially viable. This is still the case.



The Estate Sawmill

Approximately 2,000 tonnes of round timber is harvested each year, 1,200 tonnes from silvicultural thinnings and 800 tonnes from clear felling which is replanted. Some 1,500 tonnes is processed through the estate sawmill to add value, producing mainly fencing and agricultural products for sale locally. The forestry department of the Estate employs a total of 11 people; 4 in the mill, 4 on felling and hauling, 2 on fencing and estate maintenance, and a manager.

## Agriculture

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Although the importance of agriculture as an employer in Northumberland has declined, with 11,712 acres in the Parish agriculture is still important. Arable farming predominates with wheat, barley, oats and oilseed rape being major crops.

Potatoes and vegetables are also grown using irrigation from the river Till. Most farms have some form of livestock enterprise, usually beef cattle and sheep. This mixed type of agriculture provides a higher employment opportunity than an entirely arable cropping system would offer. Major changes to the Common Agricultural Policy which are due to start in 2005 are likely to put further pressure on employment in agriculture.

The nearest livestock market is in Wooler. Veterinary practices are based in Wooler and Coldstream.

## Tourism

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Visitor numbers for the attractions in the Parish have been growing again as the following figures for the 2003 season from Easter to October illustrate.

A total of 6,525 paying visitors visited **Heatherslaw Mill**, though many more visited the mill shop and tearoom.

Visitor numbers to Lady Waterford Hall were roughly the same as for the mill.

**Heatherslaw Light Railway** had some 28 - 30,000 visitors during the season.

**Etal Castle** (English Heritage) visitors are estimated at 6 - 7,000.

Ford & Etal continues to be a popular visitor destination with many 'return'

visitors who come year after year. Many others are day visitors



Heatherslaw Light Railway

who visit during their annual holiday in the area. The growth in accommodation outlets on the Estate (particularly B & B) has brought an increase in numbers of people taking short breaks here, something which can only be to the good of the local economy. During the 2003 season all accommodation providers (B & B and self-catering) were fully booked and the majority have gained advance bookings for the 2004 season.

Ford & Etal attracts visitors from across the spectrum of the socio-economic scale with many family groups coming from local holiday parks like Haggerston and Berwick Holiday Centre and others coming simply for the peace and beauty of the area. Throughout the year the area is also extensively visited by walkers, cyclists and anglers.

Over the past two years it has become apparent that the visitor season has been extending, people have been getting out and about earlier, and staying later - we hope that with joint publicity and promotion we can attract our share of the 'shoulder-season' markets.

A new footpath has enabled visitors to walk between Heatherslaw Mill and Etal, the termini of the railway, without walking on the road. The parish has an extensive footpath system which is underutilised and as a result is generally overgrown. Development of these paths with the provision of signage, some parking and possibly map guidance would enhance tourism opportunities. Walking maps exist but could be promoted and made more widely available.

## Wildlife and the Countryside

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The spectacular views from any point in the countryside around Ford and Etal are quite stunning.

The sandstone escarpment on the east with its rough grass and moorland contrasts with the Till river valley with its arable fields and many conifer woods. All of which lies below the Cheviot Hills, the northern extremity of the Pennine range.

This very rural area is full of a wide



Riding in the woods of Ford Parish

range of wildlife. There are lapwings, oyster catchers, curlews, buzzards, golden plovers, field fares, redshanks and snipe in increasing numbers here. The wild flowers bring a wonderful array of colours with the bright yellow of Broom in early summer leading to the pink of the Rose Bay Willow Herb in late summer among the most common ones.

There are swans and many different varieties of Duck on the River Till but the joy of the river is the Otters and their increasing numbers are a credit to the conservation policy of the Estate.

This rural area is abundant in wild animals. Roe Deer, Badgers, Foxes and Hares are some of the larger animals with Red Squirrels still a familiar sight. Look out for the butterflies too, so many, many different varieties.

Countrysports are actively practised on the Estate. The local Hunt meets about once a month. There are shooting parties on most weeks during the season and fishing is very popular on a quite difficult but immensely rewarding river.

There are footpaths and bridleways on the Estate and access to them is marked. Further development is planned (see p. 11). There are bicycles to hire (see p. 4) and there is a Riding Centre that takes rides through the countryside.

There is peace and tranquillity to be found in places like Ford Moss which is a 'raised-mire' bog where trees appear to be sinking in as they grow 'taller' and heavier. Ford Moss is also an S.S.S.I, (see p. 2) and is managed by the Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

## Social

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The Parish of Ford sustains a number of social groups and activities which create the fabric of an excellent community. They include:

A **Mother and Toddlers** group numbering around 25 meets in Ford School on one morning per week and a group of 8-10 pre-school children meet twice a week. A committee of parents raise funds to provide toys and equipment for the groups.

A group of school parents form a **Parent Teachers Association** which raises funds for and supports the Ford Village School.

An after-school **Football Club** coaches children once a week on the Ford school football pitch.

A unisex group of **Beavers** (14-15 children aged 6-8 years) and **Cubs**

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(around 5 children aged 8-11 years) meet weekly in Etal Village hall.

**The Youth Club** meets in Etal Village hall on Monday nights and there are 15-20 regular members. The group leaders are drawn from a pool of 8 - 9 volunteers. Activities include table tennis, badminton, play stations, computer games, and a climbing wall at one end of the hall.

**The Computer room** at Etal Village Hall, part of the Villages on Line project, has ISDN connection to the internet for its local network of three computers together with scanning and printing facilities, both b/w and colour. There are facilities to create CD Roms and a port for downloading digital camera images. It is open with supervision on two evenings a week and during the summer time for an additional two afternoons a week. A number of visitors have found it useful to access e-mails. Locals may apply for a card and use the room without supervision when they are sufficiently experienced. It is run by a group of 8 volunteers.

**Whist Drives** are held monthly in Crookham Village Hall and a monthly **Village History/Lecture** evening normally welcomes between 15 and 50 people.

**The Parish News** is a newsletter which provides a 'What's On' service to the Parish and news of newcomers and family achievements. It has now been in continuous production for over ten years. Originally started as a church newsletter it is now written, produced and printed by two ladies and distributed by a team to most houses in the parish. The production run is 350 copies per month.

**A Carpet Bowling Club** meets in the Lady Waterford Hall in Ford once a week There are normally 10-15 players and when matches are played against local teams there are three rinks of four players to each team

**The Church of England** has a regular congregation of 25 - 40 worshippers which supports two church buildings. The church promotes concerts, coffee mornings and a summer fete. There is a strong musical tradition in the church and we are fortunate to have several organists to call on. For special services a choir is assembled.

**The United Reform Church** in Crookham has a regular congregation and holds Sunday services twice a month.

**The Etal Horticultural Show**, now in its 68th year, is a traditional village flower show which is attended by around 500 visitors and locals each year on the first Sunday of September. There are over 150 classes to be judged together with ancilliary exhibits, stands, and a dog show.

A traditional **Onion Club** in Etal Village holds its competitions some weeks after the flower show and is still well supported.

An occasional **Oral History Group** makes recordings of local recollections and stories. Copies of the recordings are deposited with the Borough

Archivist at Berwick Borough Council.

A very active group of **Riding For The Disabled** meets weekly in the privately owned riding school at Etal Manor.

Almost the last branch of **The British Legion** in North Northumberland meets in Crookham village. Drawing its 50 members from a much wider area than the Parish it sends representatives to county meetings and for Poppy Day 2003 raised over £2,000.

A **Friendship Club** for retired residents meets regularly for coffee at the Heatherslaw cafe in summer and at the cafe in Milfield in winter. Fifty-three 'hampers' were distributed at Christmas time 2003 from funds raised during the year.

A regular group of **Billiards** players meet in Crookham Village Hall and compete as a team in the Tillside League. Billiards is also played in the Reading Room at Ford.

The **Tillside Cricket Club** plays at Etal Cricket Ground. It competes in the Alnwick & District League and also during the week in a local evening league. The club is very strong having around 30 members and a further 30 Junior members who attend evening coaching.

There is an active **Fishing Club** restricted to those who live in the parish. It fishes the Till on water owned by The Ford and Etal Estates.

The **Ford & Etal Yoga Club** meets weekly in the Lady Waterford Hall in spring and Summer.

## The Village Halls

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Each village has its own village hall referred to above. All were originally Reading Rooms provided together with newspapers by the then landowners. These facilities no longer exist! Each of the halls now has charitable status.

The following paragraphs consider the condition of each hall in 2004. A summary of the discussions of an Open Meeting held in Etal hall on 22nd October 2003 is included on page 28 as an example of the meetings which have been held in each location.

### Etal Village Hall

Many of the social activities listed above take place in this hall and in the autumn of 2003 the Hall Committee conducted a separate survey of Parish residents to ascertain their wishes for the future of the Hall.

A meeting was held in October 2003 to discuss the contents of the survey returns and seek a way forward. Subsequently the Management Committee have prioritised the physical requirements of the building as:

- Internal decoration of the main hall to attract increased usage.
- Compliance with the Disabilities Act.
- A dedicated storage area for tables and chairs when not in use.
- Toilet improvements.
- The addition of a small meeting room which could also house the computer suite.
- Kitchen and bar improvements.

Funding has been found for an architect to survey the building to see if it can be altered internally to improve the layout and meet the above needs, or whether an extension would be necessary.

It is the Management Committee's intention to seek funding to take the Hall improvement forward after the architect's report has been received.

### **Crookham Village Hall**

The village hall in Crookham was built in 1912 of pink dressed sandstone. There is a main hall with a fine vaulted roof of varnished timber and with an open fireplace and a stage. There are also a fitted kitchen, some toilet accommodation, and a Billiard Room with full sized table.

Regular events held in the hall include a monthly whist drive, monthly Village / History evenings when lecturers attract around 15-50 people for a social evening. Each year a Burns Night is fully subscribed and a village Christmas Party has been held with great success for several years. On these occasions catering is provided by 'Friends of the Hall'. The hall is hired for meetings by Ford Parish Council, The United Reform Church, for election purposes and for private parties or events. The billiards team play in the Tillside League.

In recent years the local residents have invested time and energy to improve the hall with the benefit of grants from the Lottery Fund, European Regional Funds and with some funds raised or donated locally. This has included:

- Rewiring with new heaters and coin meters in the Billiard Room which has been redecorated and carpeted. New curtains have been ordered.

- The Kitchen and hall have been rewired with frost protection heaters and emergency lighting. The rooms have been redecorated and provided with new kitchen units and new curtains.
- The exterior of the building has been repainted.

The hall committee has had a Disability Assessment carried out and has identified further work. An architect has been engaged to make proposals for the following causes for concern:

- Disabled toilets, ramps and door widths.
- Renovation of the boundary wall which is falling down.
- Exterior pointing to the main hall and the treatment of the roof for moss.
- Repair of the Billiard Room roof which is leaking.
- Provision of parking and in particular of disabled parking provision.
- The replacement of the floor in the main hall.

### **Ford Reading Room**

In addition to the Lady Waterford Hall, Ford village has a village reading room which was erected by the Ford Estate in 1913 and provides a meeting place for over twenty members who live in the village and have access to a very good billiard room. Members raise funds and arrange grants to maintain and improve the building.

## **Websites of interest**

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*Main tourism website.*

[www.ford-and-etal.co.uk](http://www.ford-and-etal.co.uk)

*Area tourism website.*

[www.secretkingdom.com](http://www.secretkingdom.com)

*Businesses - General*

[www.the-irving-gallery.co.uk](http://www.the-irving-gallery.co.uk)

[www.fordnursery.co.uk](http://www.fordnursery.co.uk)

[www.fordcastle.org.uk](http://www.fordcastle.org.uk)

[www.kimmerston.com](http://www.kimmerston.com)

[www.BlackBullEtal.com](http://www.BlackBullEtal.com)

[www.taylorandgreen.co.uk](http://www.taylorandgreen.co.uk)

[www.bordersgliding.co.uk](http://www.bordersgliding.co.uk)

*- Accommodation*

[www.theestatehouse.co.uk](http://www.theestatehouse.co.uk)

[www.coachhousecrookham.com](http://www.coachhousecrookham.com)

[www.hayfarm.co.uk/](http://www.hayfarm.co.uk/)

[www.kirnmerstonfarmhouse.co.uk](http://www.kirnmerstonfarmhouse.co.uk)

[www.berwickonline.org.uk/guide/wooler/askew\\_cottage.htm](http://www.berwickonline.org.uk/guide/wooler/askew_cottage.htm)

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# Ford Parish Survey Result

## 1. Location of respondents

<i>Where do you live?</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Ford	27	26%
Etal	16	15%
Crookham	18	17%
Heatherslaw	4	4%
I do not live in a village	36	35%

## 2. Respondents view of Parish/Village

*Do you think the Parish is well looked after?*

	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
No	10	10%
Yes	81	78%

*Do you think your village is well looked after?*

*By village frequency - row %*

	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ford [1]	7	15	22
	32%	68%	32%
Etal [2]	4	11	15
	27%	73%	22%
Crookham [3]	5	11	16
	31%	69%	24%
Heatherslaw [4]	0	4	4
	0%	100%	6%
I do not live in a village [5]	0	11	11
	0%	100%	16%
<b>Total</b>	16	52	68
	24%	76%	

**Do any of the following issues concern you?**

*By village frequency - row %*

<i>Litter</i>	<i>Dog fouling</i>	<i>Graffiti</i>	<i>Condition of communal areas</i>	<i>Conditions of</i>	<i>Other of gardens</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ford [1]						
11	4	0	1	1	1	18
61%	22%	0%	6%	6%	6%	27%
Etal [2]						
8	0	0	3	1	0	12
67%	0%	0%	25%	8%	0%	18%
Crookham [3]						
4	7	0	0	1	0	12
33%	58%	0%	0%	8%	0%	18%

<i>Litter</i>	<i>Dog fouling</i>	<i>Graffiti</i>	<i>Condition of communal areas</i>	<i>Conditions of</i>	<i>Other of gardens</i>	<i>Total</i>
Heatherslaw [4]						
3	0	0	0	0	1	4
75%	0%	0%	0%	0%	25%	6%
I do not live in a village [5]						
18	0	0	1	1	0	20
90%	0%	0%	5%	5%	0%	30%
<b>Total</b>						
44	11	0	5	4	2	66
67%	17%	0%	8%	6%	3%	

### 3. Traffic Issues

*Are there any problems with speeding traffic where you live?*

<i>By village frequency - row %</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ford [1]	14	12	26
	54%	46%	27%
Etal [2]	10	6	16
	63%	38%	16%
Crookham [3]	5	12	17
	29%	71%	18%
Heatherslaw [4]	2	2	4
	50%	50%	4%
I do not live in a village [5]	22	12	34
	65%	35%	35%
<b>Total</b>	53	44	97
	55%	45%	

<i>Suggested remedies for speeding traffic by village</i>	<i>New speed limits</i>	<i>Better enforcement</i>	<i>Traffic calming</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ford [1]	1	3	5	0	9
	11%	33%	56%	0%	23%
Etal [2]	3	1	1	2	7
	43%	14%	14%	29%	18%
Crookham [3]	1	8	3	0	12
	8%	67%	25%	0%	30%
Heatherslaw [4]	2	0	0	0	2
	100%	0%	0%	0%	5%
I do not live in a village [5]	2	6	1	1	10
	20%	60%	10%	10%	25%
<b>Total</b>	9	18	10	3	40
	23%	45%	25%	8%	

### 4. Tourism

<i>Do you think enough is done to support Tourism?</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
No	31	30%
Yes	64	62%

<i>If no, what else could be done?</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Estate maps	18	17%
Extension of Heatherslaw Railway to Ford	8	8%
More wet weather visitor attractions	12	12%

<i>Do you think the number of tourists visiting the parish is...</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Too high	4	4%
Too low	20	19%
About right	71	68%

<i>Do you think enough is done to publicise historic sites and heritage of the Parish?</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
No	31	30%
Yes	64	62%

<i>Would you like to see this aspect of the parish further developed?'</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
No	31	30%
Yes	38	37%

## **5 Recycling**

*Would you like to see recycling facilities in the parish?*

<i>By Village</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ford [1]	8	18	26
	31%	69%	27%
Etal [2]	2	13	15
	13%	87%	16%
Crookham [3]	7	10	17
	41%	59%	18%
Heatherslaw [4]	0	3	3
	0%	100%	3%
I do not live in a village [5]	9	25	34
	26%	74%	36%
<b>Total</b>	26	69	95
	27%	73%	

## **6. Recreation facilities for young people**

*Do you think the recreation facilities for young people in the parish are adequate?*

<i>By Village frequency - row</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ford [1] is	15	7	22
	68%	32%	27%
Etal [2]	9	7	16
	56%	44%	20%
Crookham [3]	7	6	13
	54%	46%	16%
Heatherslaw [4]	2	1	3
	67%	33%	4%

***Do you think the recreation facilities for young people in the parish are adequate?***

	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Total</b>
I do not live in a village [5]	20	7	27
	74%	26%	33%
<b>Total</b>	53	28	81
	65%	35%	

***What additional facilities / activities would you like to see?***

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Football	26	25%
Tennis	14	13%
Badminton	2	2%
Running track	2	2%
Cycling track	4	4%
Skate park	3	3%

**7. Recreation facilities for Older people**

***Do you think the recreation facilities for the older people of the Parish are adequate?***

<b>By village</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ford [1]	6	13	19
	32%	68%	26%
Etal [2]	6	9	15
	40%	60%	21%
Crookham [3]	3	11	14
	21%	79%	19%
Heatherslaw [4]	0	4	4
	0%	100%	5%
I do not live in a village [5]	9	12	21
	43%	57%	29%
<b>Total</b>	24	49	73
	33%	67%	

**8. Village Halls**

***There are computer facilities in Etal Village Hall. Have you used them?***

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No	79	76%
Yes	19	18%

***There are three village halls in the Parish. Do you think the facilities they offer are adequate?***

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No	14	13%
Yes	68	65%

***If not why not?***

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Size	2	2%
Location	1	1%
Facilities available	9	9%

**Would you like to see joint social events organised across the Parish?**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No	19	18%
Yes	44	42%

**9. Bus service**

<b>Do you use the bus service? By Village frequency - row %</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Total</b>	
Ford [1]		19	6	25
		76%	24%	26%
Etal [2]		12	3	15
		80%	20%	16%
Crookham [3]		14	3	17
		82%	18%	18%
Heatherslaw [4]		3	1	4
		75%	25%	4%
I do not live in a village [5]		32	3	35
		91%	9%	36%
<b>Total</b>		80	16	96
		83%	17%	

**Reasons for not using bus**

<b>By village</b>	<b>Times of the bus inconvenient</b>	<b>Destination of the bus</b>	<b>Frequency of service</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Have own transport</b>						
Ford [1]						
20	0	1	0	0	0	21
95%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	24%
Etal [2]						
13	0	0	0	0	0	13
100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%
Crookham [3]						
14	0	0	0	0	0	14
100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	16%
Heatherslaw [4]						
3	0	0	0	0	0	3
100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%
I do not live in a village [5]						
33	2	0	0	0	0	35
94%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	41%
<b>Total</b>						
83	2	1	0	0	0	86
97%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	

## 10. Satisfaction with Housing

Is your current housing satisfactory? By village. Frequency -row%

	No	Yes	Total
Ford [1]	3 12%	23 88%	26 27%
Etal [2]	3 20%	12 80%	15 15%
Crookham [3]	1 6%	17 94%	18 18%
Heatherslaw [4]	2 50%	2 50%	4 4%
I do not live in a village [5]	6 17%	29 83%	35 36%
<b>Total</b>	15 15%	83 85%	98

### Reasons for dissatisfaction, by village

Frequency - row %

	Property too large	Property too small	I need disabled facilities in my	Property in poor state of repair	Property too expensive	Property in wrong location	Other	Total
Ford [1]	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 6%
Etal [2]	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 20%	3 60%	0 0%	1 20	5 31%
Crookham [3]	0 0%	1 50%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 50	2 13%
Heatherslaw [4]	1 50%	0 0%	1 50%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 13%
I do not live in a village [5]	1 17%	1 17%	0 0%	3 50%	1 17%	0 0%	0 0%	6 38%
<b>Total</b>	2 13%	2 13%	1 6%	5 31%	4 25%	0 0%	2 13%	16

## 11 Mother and Toddlers Group.

If you have pre school children. do they attend mothers and toddlers?

Frequency Percentage

No	8	8%
Yes	8	8%

<i>If you attend a group. which one?</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Ford	8	8%
Lowick	0	0%
Milfield	0	0%
Cornhill	0	0%
Other	0	0%

<i>If you would like to attend a group but cannot, please state the reason why?</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
No transport available	3	3%
Location of groups	0	0%
Times of groups is inconvenient	3	3%
Cost	2	2%
Other	0	0%

### **12. Crime and Safety.**

<i>Do you think that crime and personal safety are issues in the Parish?</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
No	84	81%
Yes	5	5%

### **13. Employment**

<i>How many people in your household are...</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Employed full time	46
Employed part time	8
Unemployed and seeking work	1
Unemployed and not seeking work	2
Not able to work through ill health/disability	4

<i>How many people in your household are...</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Retired	31
In full time education (Under 16)	3
In full time education (Over 16)	0

<i>Where do those household members who are employed work?</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Within the Parish	36	3 %
Elswhere	19	18%

<i>What measures would help you get a job if you are unemployed or a better job if you are working?</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Better education and training opportunities	6	6%
Better transport links	4	4%
More employment opportunities in tourism	5	5%
More employment opportunities in manufacturing	4	4%
Other	0	0%

#### 14. Use of Local Shop

*Do you use your local shop - by village. Frequency - row %*

	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ford [1]	0 0%	25 100%	25 30%
Etal [2]	1 7%	13 93%	14 17%
Crookham [3]	1 11%	8 89%	9 11%
Heatherstaw [4]	0 0%	4 100%	4 5%
I do not live in a village [5]	4 13%	27 87%	31 37%
<b>Total</b>	6 7%	77 93%	83

*What improvements would encourage you to use your local shops - by village.*

*Frequency - row %*

	<b>Longer opening hours</b>	<b>Wider range of goods on sale</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ford [1]	1 10%	8 80%	1 10%	10 26%
Etal [2]	1 14%	5 71%	1 14%	7 18%
Crookham [3]	2 67%	0 0%	1 33%	3 8%
Heatherslaw [4]	1 33%	2 67%	0 0%	3 8%
I do not live in a village [5]	6 38%	10 63%	0 0%	16 41%
<b>Total</b>	11 28%	25 64%	3 8%	39

# Wish List - derived from the questionnaire

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*(in no particular order)*

- Better footpath maintenance.
- Road repairs needed.
- Action on the nuisance of dog fouling.
- Better village car parking facilities (Crookham; Ford School).
- Action on the nuisance of roadside litter.
- Better leisure facilities for young people (Etal play area; skate park).
- Control speeding. Enforce the limits.
- Extend Heatherslaw railway to Ford.
- Provide wet weather visitor attractions.
- Ford Parish website.
- New footbridge over the river at Etal.
- Laid paths for river walks.
- Greater networking of tourism businesses.
- Provision of picnic tables.
- Public display maps.
- More information boards.
- Provision of recycling facilities.
- Provision of football, tennis, badminton, facilities.
- A running track; a cycling track.
- An art group.
- Keep fit classes for men and women.
- A census of children's views to find out what they would like.
- Group guided walks.
- Support for the parish newsletter.
- Reduction in low flying RAF exercises.

# An example of a community discussion,

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*Summary of an Open Meeting held in Etal Village Hall on Wednesday 22nd October 2003. (see page 16)*

- Improve publicity for the facilities which are available for use in the hall - Newsletter?
- Decoration of the hall needs improving - Painting Party?
- A large funding application is as easy to make as a small one!
- The entrance-way of the hall is unwelcoming.
- An extension could be built to house new toilets, the present toilet area could be made into a small meeting room.
- A door could be put on to the front of the hall facing the street.
- Could there be a film club set up, perhaps on a monthly basis.
- What about comfortable chairs?
- Is there a value in finding out how many visitors go through the Lady Waterford Hall? This might give us some idea of how much could be gained from opening some kind of exhibition in the hall and opening it to the visitors.
- The condition of the hall is not as good as the questionnaire results suggest.
- Could ask hall hirers for a Deposit which was only returned if the hall was left tidy after use.
- Would it be possible to obtain some free paint from - Berwick Council, Glendale Paints, Homebase?
- Possibility of getting a shed to store a lot of stuff from the hall.
- Possibility of using the hall for business/corporate entertainment. A high upgrade would be necessary.
- The present bar could be done away with altogether and a mobile bar could replace this.
- A fixed bar of some sort is useful for teas and coffees etc.
- The hall is well used!
- The basic shape of the main hall is not very good. It might be possible to hold Veterinary and Nutrition talks and clinics.
- Need to raise the profile of the hall through advertising.
- Superficial decoration might encourage more users of the hall.
- The Bar, Kitchen and Toilets are the main problem areas of the hall.

# Action Plan

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Solutions</i>	<i>Who?</i>
General concerns regarding litter in the Parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• refer to Berwick B.C.</li> </ul>	Berwick B.C.
Dog fouling in Crookham.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• educate dog owners and provide additional doggie bins.</li> </ul>	Parish Council.
Traffic calming in Ford.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• solicit advice from Highways Dept.</li> </ul>	Parish Council.
Speed enforcement in Crookham.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inform locals of the concerns.</li> <li>• inform Police.</li> </ul>	Parish News. Parish Council.
Need for recycling facilities in villages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• notify Berwick Borough; discuss with local operators.</li> </ul>	Parish Council.
Isolation and scattered population increases the need to be part of a community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• organise joint events across the Parish.</li> <li>• increase opportunities for recreation in and outdoors.</li> </ul>	people involved with organising events in the different villages; Village Hall Committees; Sports groups, volunteers from the community; Parish Council; P.C.C.
Lack of recreation facilities for young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase opportunities for recreation in and outdoors by involving young people for ideas.</li> <li>• contact Etal Youth Club for support and advice.</li> <li>• visit other Parishes to see what facilities they have for young people.</li> <li>• discuss with Ford Castle possible use of football pitch.</li> </ul>	Sports Development Officer (Berwick Borough Council); Community Council of Northumberland; Glendale Sports & Leisure Association, youth groups; SureStart; Village Hall Committees; volunteers from the community. Parish Council. Ford & Etal Estates.
IT facilities in Etal Village Hall need increased support from community to maintain the service in the Parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase access to all by improving the building and extending opening hours of computing suite.</li> <li>• apply for funding to run computing courses for the community.</li> </ul>	Northumberland College; Community Council of Northumberland, Village Hall Committees; volunteers from the community; Northumberland County Council (N.C.C.).

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Solutions</i>	<i>Who?</i>
High dependency on private car ownership and lack of mobility of those without cars due to poor transport service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• work with other parishes to find solutions to poor transport services and apply for funding.</li> </ul>	Parish Council.
Housing issues with people living outside settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encourage research into needs of local residents</li> </ul>	Rural Housing Enabler (Community Council of Northumberland); Parish Council.
Lack of involvement and feedback from young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• organise a special programme with Etal Youth Club and local school to encourage young people's involvement with the Parish Plan process</li> </ul>	Etal Youth Club; Wooler Young People's Association; SureStart; Berwick Family Centre; Community Council of Northumberland; volunteers from the community; Parish Council.
Access for disabled in Village Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ask Community Council of Northumberland for for an Access Audit</li> <li>• work up planned budget for each Village Hall</li> <li>• identify funding</li> </ul>	Village Hall Committees; Community Council of Northumberland. Ford & Etal Estates.
Improve condition, signage and visibility of footpaths. Particularly close to villages or connecting them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify three or four routes for development.</li> <li>• make maintenance plan.</li> <li>• improve access (car parks)</li> <li>• publish maps.</li> <li>• publicise.</li> </ul>	Parish Council. Ford & Etal Estates. County Council.
Replace crossing of Till at Etal Power House.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• obtain funding for a proposal. (Ferry or bridge).</li> <li>• obtain quotations.</li> <li>• implement.</li> </ul>	Parish Council. Ford & Etal Estates. Tourist authority. N.C.C.
Provision of sheltered housing in the parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• discuss options.</li> <li>• ccontact Housing Associations and other providers.</li> </ul>	Parish Council. Ford & Etal Estates. Borough Council. Rural Housing Enabler.
Improvements and upgrading of village halls/reading rooms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• discuss options.</li> <li>• prepare estimates</li> <li>• obtain funding.</li> <li>• implement.</li> </ul>	Village Hall committees. Ford & Etal Estates, Countryside Agency.

## Approximate Distances from Ford Parish to & from Major Services in England

<i>Round Trip Distance in Miles</i>	<i>Location</i>
Doctor's surgery	18 Wooler
Accident & Emergency Hospital	24 Berwick upon Tweed
Major Hospital Services	100 Ashington
Middle / High School	24 Berwick upon Tweed
Further Education	100+ Newcastle
Day / Evening Classes	18/24 Wooler/Berwick upon Tweed
Supermarket - Safeway - Co-op	24 Berwick
Supermarket - Sainsbury, etc	100+ Newcastle
Marks & Spencers	100+ Newcastle
Modern shopping precinct	100+ Newcastle
Barclays Bank / Bank of Scotland	18 Wooler
Other Banks	24 Berwick upon Tweed
Building Society Office	24 Berwick upon Tweed
MP's surgery	24 Berwick upon Tweed
Citizen's Advice Bureau	24 Berwick upon Tweed
Council Offices	24 Berwick upon Tweed
Police Station (Part time)	18 Wooler
Police Station (Full time)	24 Berwick upon Tweed
Library	24 Berwick upon Tweed
Garage / Fuel Service Station	18 Wooler
Railway Station	24 Berwick upon Tweed
Bus Depot	24 Berwick upon Tweed
Airport	100 Newcastle
Cinema	24 Berwick upon Tweed
Theatre / Arts Centre	24 Berwick upon Tweed
Sports Hall / Swimming Pool	24 Berwick upon Tweed

## Approximate Distances from Ford Parish to & from Major Services in Scotland

<i>Round Trip Distance in Miles</i>	<i>Location</i>
Doctor's surgery	12 Coldstream
Accident & Emergency Hospital	36 Kelso
Major Hospital Services	70 Melrose
Evening Classes	12 Coldstream
Supermarket - Safeway. Co-op	36 Kelso
Supermarket - Sainsbury, etc	100+ Edinburgh
Grocery Store	12 Coldstream
Marks & Spencers	100+ Edinburgh
Modern shopping precinct	100+ Edinburgh
Full time Post Office	12 Coldstream
Bank (Bank of Scotland)	12 Coldstream
Library	12 Coldstream
Garage / Fuel Service Station	12 Coldstream
Airport	100 Edinburgh

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# Acknowledgements

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of the various activities.

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Councillor Alan Rogerson  
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Mr. Jeff Storm  
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Mr. John Abercrombie  
*(Crookham Billiards)*

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Mrs. Caroline Bickerton  
*(Mothers and Toddlers)*

Mrs. Brenda Rollo  
*(Cubs and Beavers)*

Mr. Bob Gallon  
*(Carpet Bowls)*

Mrs. Sylvia Scott  
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Mr. Steve Taylor  
*(Etal Youth Club, Computer Room)*

Lord Joicey  
*(Ford & Etal Estates)*

Mrs. Lilian Warcup  
*(Etal Horticultural Show)*

Mr. John Murphy  
*(Tourism)*

Mr. David Williams  
*(Forestry)*

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Comments, suggestions and requests will be welcomed by the Parish Council and should be sent  
to: The Clerk, Mrs. Mary Lockie, Ford Westfield, Ford, TD15 2PY

This Parish Plan has been edited and produced by Mr. John Benn, Oakhall, Crookham, TD12 4TH

The table of distances inside the back cover is adapted with permission from  
Branxton Parish Plan by Mr. Clive Hallam-Baker.