

Newton by the Sea Parish - present and future...



Photos of settlements in Parish

The Parish Plan and Design Statement of the Parish of Newton-by-the-Sea

February 2005

Contents

14 Feb 05

Page 1 of 50

1

1. Vision of the Parish

2. Introduction

- What is a Parish Plan and a Design Statement?
- Purpose of the Parish Plan and Design Statement
- Geographical area covered
- Demographic information
- Context and relationship of Parish Plan & Design Statement to other plans
- Who is the Parish plan and design statement for?
- How the Parish Plan and Design Statement were produced

3. A brief history of the Parish

- High and Low Newton
- Brunton
- Falldon
- Doxford
- During the Second World War
- Supplementary Planning Guidance (1)

4. The natural environment

4.1 The Parish and its setting in the landscape

Supplementary Planning Guidance (2 and 3)

4.2 Natural history

- Geology, soils and dunes
- The agricultural landscape
- Common Land
- Plants
- Mammals
- Animals
- Birds
- Reptiles, invertebrates including butterflies
- Marine life
- The National Trust
- Newton Pool

Supplementary Planning Guidance (4)

4.3 Conserving and enhancing our environment

- Pollution

5. The built environment

5.1 The Parish Layout and its buildings

5.2 Building characteristics

Supplementary Planning Guidance (5 & 6)

Style of architecture and scale, proportion and character of housing

- Houses
- Halls
- New buildings and extensions

Supplementary Planning Guidance (7)

6. Living in the Parish

6.1 Demographics

6.2 Housing

Supplementary Planning Guidance (8)

- 6.3 Local schools
 - 6.4 Refuse collection
 - 6.5 Dog fouling
 - 6.6 Village hall
 - 6.7 Parish events
 - 6.8 Availability of local information
- Supplementary Planning Guidance (9)

7. Working in the Parish

- 7.1 Business support
 - 7.2 Travel to work
 - 7.3 Communications
 - 7.4 Future development
- Supplementary Planning Guidance (10 and 11)

8. Transport

- 8.1 Roads and pathways
- Supplementary Planning Guidance (12 and 13)

- 8.2 Verges and pavements
- 8.3 Road surfaces and markings
- 8.5 Street furniture and street lighting
- 8.6 Levels of traffic
- 8.7 Parking

Supplementary Planning Guidance (14)

- 8.8 Public transport
- Supplementary Planning Guidance (15)

9. Tourism

Appendices

- A. Summary of district and county policies
- B. Listed buildings
- C. Conservation areas
- D. The AONB and SSSIs
- E. List of indigenous trees, plants, shrubs, animals
- F. Useful contacts
- G. Agenda 21 ????

Glossary and acronyms

1. Vision of the Parish

The Parish of Newton by the Sea is special, not just to those who have always lived here or have chosen to make it their home, but to second home owners and visitors. It is very rural with a few, small scattered settlements, wide views of Cheviot, Ross Castle and Alnwick Moor to the west and has a magnificent coastline.

Of residents who are incomers, the majority (61%) cited the landscape and environment as the main reasons for coming to live in the Parish. Specific points listed were "Rural life, Pleasant area, Lack of amusements and commercialisation, Lack of buildings, contrasts in landscape, To be close to wildfowl – my roots are here & the area has remained unspoilt, Balance between community and visitor enjoyment during the various seasons, Views and open space, Unspoilt, peaceful coastal area. Quiet area, pollution free, Beauty, sea, natural environment, not over-developed, quiet but with basic infrastructure, neighbours and pubs, near Alnwick, Unlikely to be developed with AONB status. These views are confirmed by second home owners; likewise the majority of visitors (as noted at the Parish Appraisal).

Whilst change is inevitable, the overwhelming view is that the unspoilt and tranquil nature of the Parish should be maintained. The relative lack of development of the coast in the Parish is compared to the overdevelopment of Beadnell and other coastal communities and there is a general support for policies that control and restrict developments that could threaten the Parish.

Newton is a Parish that people feel passionately about. Many people make their own small contributions to the landscape. For example, a number of people take bags to collect litter. Tree planting schemes have been well supported. People want to contribute to the community and this enthusiasm could be harnessed to maintain and improve the quality of life for everyone in the Parish.

However, there is no escape from the problems that arise from the very features that people most enjoy. There is pressure from increased tourism, house prices are high, second home ownership is substantial and the population is heavily weighted towards the elderly. There are inevitably differences in opinion in what activities would accord with the overall vision for the Parish, especially in the provision of facilities for work and the community that live here. These variety of views are illustrated and reflected in this Plan as far as is possible

2. Introduction

What is a Parish Plan and a Design Statement?

The Parish Plan is a statement of how the communities of Brunton, Doxford, Falloden, High Newton, Low Newton, Newton Barnes and people in the farms and cottages in the Parish see the Parish developing over the next few years, and the actions needed to bring this vision about. The Plan sets out actions that the Parish itself proposes to undertake and plans to influence the policies, decisions and actions carried out by other bodies that affect our lives.

The Design Statement is a practical tool to help influence decisions on design and development. It provides a clear statement of the character of the Parish

against which planning applications may be assessed. It is not about whether development should take place (this is one of the purposes of the Alnwick District Council's Local Plan), but about how development should be undertaken so as to respect the local identity and distinctiveness of the Parish.

The parts that are Residents' Views are shown in yellow boxes.

The parts that have been adopted by ADC as Supplementary Planning Guidance are shown in blue boxes

Ideas for action by the Parish community are shown in green boxes

The Parish Plan and Design Statement are referred to as the 'Plan' in the remainder of the document.

Purpose of the Parish Plan and Design Statement - What we as a Parish hope the Plan will achieve

The Plan is intended to inform the decisions of the Parish Council. It also aims to gain the support of local authorities and agencies to enhance our economic, social and environmental well-being. The Plan provides evidence to help inform policy-making by a range of organisations, from the local planning authority to police and health services. It will also help to develop and maintain effective working relationships with those outside bodies that provide services to our community, now and in the future.

This Plan is a document written and published by the residents of the Parish. It is not the work of the Parish Council but the Parish Council approved it before it was submitted to the District Council. The purpose of the Plan is to take stock of the Parish, not only in terms of its history, natural history and built environment but also its demographical make-up and community facilities. It has three elements:

1. It relates the important aspects of this stocktaking to the future of the Parish as residents see it.
2. It provides a guide to the future, describing measures to preserve valued local features and mapping out the facilities and services which the community needs to safeguard for the future.
3. It specifies design and quality standards which should be met where development is permitted under housing and other policies, (the 'Design Statement' element).

The Plan is consistent with current national planning guidance and the planning policies for the Region and the District. The land use and design aspects of the Plan can be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by the District Council. The Plan will also be used as a vital supporting document in any future funding applications for community development.

The Plan sometimes refers to the document "Newton Parish – Past and Present" which sets out the history and detailed descriptions of the natural

history as at 2004. This was produced as part of the same process as the Plan.

Geographical area covered

The Civil Parish¹ of Newton by the Sea comprises the townships of Newton by the Sea, Brunton and Fallodon², together with the eastern part of North Charlton, which is centred on Doxford³. It has become a convention to give separate names to the two settlements of Newton Barns and Cold Harbour in the townships of Newton by the Sea and Fallodon respectively.

The Parish lies on the northern extremity of the District of Alnwick and covers an area of 1583 hectares (12 square miles) of rural countryside. The Parish is wedge-shaped and extends inland from the two largest coastal settlements of High Newton and Low Newton 8 km (5 miles) almost to the A1 at Doxford Farm in the west. Brunton Burn forms the northern boundary of the Parish. It rises at Fallodon Hall and Doxford Hall and becomes a tributary of the Long Nanny just before its tidal estuary reaches the sea at Beadnell Bay which it cuts in half. The main east coast railway line from London to Edinburgh divides the Parish at Fallodon, the two halves being connected by a level crossing at Fallodon East Lodge and a tunnel at Brunton. The coastal strip is about 3.2 km (two miles) long, and is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (ANOB), owned by the National Trust. To the west, Doxford and Fallodon estates dominate.

Insert Map to show geographical area covered by the Parish Plan and surrounding areas

The Parish lies within the rain shadow of the Cheviot Hills and receives an annual average of 685 mm (27 inches) of rain, making it one of the driest areas in Britain. The climate is modified by close proximity to the sea, giving cool summers and winters free from severe frost or heavy snowfalls. At latitude 55° 31' North, the Parish enjoys long light summer evenings when it barely goes dark, and fabulous sunsets. In winter the Northern Lights are frequently seen against the dark skies.

Demographic information

In the 2001 Census there were 185 households in total in Newton Parish, 113 occupied, 8 vacant and 64 second or holiday homes. At 35% this level of second and holiday homes is significantly higher than any other Parish in Alnwick District. Craster is next with 23%. There were a total of 242 residents, all white and British, and 199 were over 16 years of age and we have a lot of personal space with 0.15 people per hectare!

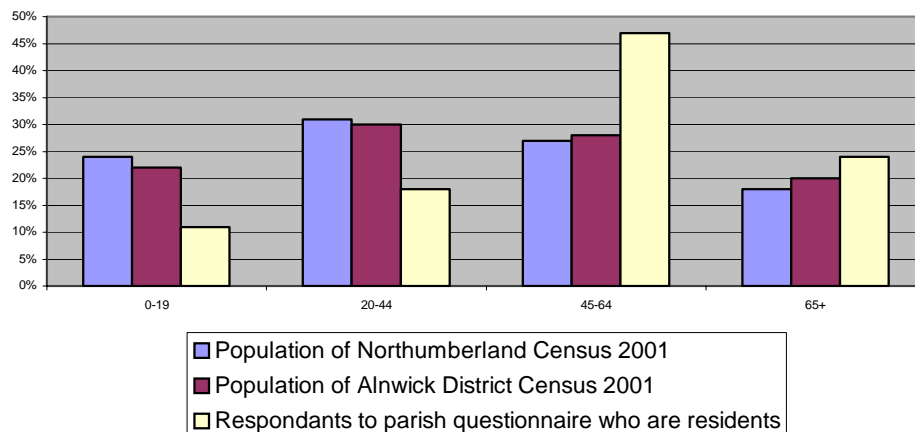
¹ The Civil Parish has nothing to do with the parish as an 'ecclesiastical area with its own clergy'. It is a unit of local government created by the reforms of 1888 - 1894 by which the administrative powers of the Justices of the Peace in the Counties, exercised in their Quarter Sessions, were transferred to County Councils, District Councils and Parish Councils - a 3-tier system with the Parish Council in the subordinate position and with limited powers.

² Townships are the Anglo-Saxon name for a settlement which is still used as a reference today. These are all in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Embleton

³ Doxford is in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Ellingham

The chart below show how the resident population profile of the Parish compares to Alnwick District and Northumberland as a whole.

Ages of respondents in 2004 compared to District and County



The population is significantly older than the averages in the rest of Northumberland – this is likely to lead to greater demands for health services and support. It also indicates that the younger segment of the community needs to be encouraged to stay here if the Parish is to stay the same. The present working community has to be maintained to prevent the balance tipping further towards an ever older population.

Context and relationship of Parish Plan & Design Statement to other plans

The planning function is carried out by local government under guidelines from the Central Government. Since 1949 the formulation of planning policies has been the function of the following bodies in the hierarchy set out.

1. The Government:
 - a. Issues Planning Policy Guidelines (PPGs) to set national policies.
 - b. Specifies areas for special treatment, such as AONBs, ??SSSIs and SACs.
2. The County Council draw up County Structure Plans.
3. The District Council draw up District Plans.
4. The District Council approve any plans for small focussed areas which then become Supplementary Planning Guidance.
5. The views of the Parish Council are requested by the District Council.

The Government plans to create a Regional Assembly to replace County Councils and District Councils by 'Unitary Authorities' were defeated with a 80% majority rejecting the proposal in November 2004. As a result the planning hierarchy will remain as follows:

1. The Government will continue to issue Planning Policy Statements replacing PPGs.
2. The Voluntary Regional Chamber will continue to exist and there will still be a strategy set at regional level which will turn out to be the Regional Spatial Strategy.

3. The Unitary Authorities will create 'Local Development Framework' (LDF): folders of planning policies (which will include approved Parish Plans) with a 'Core Document' summarising the main features and acting as an easy reference guide.

The policies that are relevant to this Parish Plan are those set out in the old pattern, explained above. A summary of policies, grouped according to topics is given in Appendix A.

County Structure Plan

Within the national and regional context, the Structure Plan seeks to ensure sustainable development, to be carried out within the capacities of the built and natural environments, to improve the quality of life for present and future generations.

Planning authorities are required to concentrate on regeneration of existing urban areas, attract employment to improve the economic base, and pursue policies to protect the countryside and coastline.

Strategic framework for development

The twin aims of the framework are to strengthen and diversify the Northumberland economy, while protecting, conserving and enhancing the environment.

The strategy will be influenced by:

1. Concentration of new development at existing settlements to assist regeneration and to protect and enhance the environment.
2. Affording greater protection to the natural environment and ensure that development does not prejudice environmental sustainability.
3. Implications of changing agricultural policy for the use of the countryside and the rural economy.

The framework for sustainable development has policies that:

1. Ensure that irreplaceable environmental resources are not destroyed and that development maintains the quality and character of the environment
2. Accommodate a level of growth to assist regeneration of the Northumberland economy and meet employment and housing needs of local people.
3. Maintain a range of services, well-distributed around the County.
4. Make the most efficient use of existing infrastructure and resources.
5. Provide a safe, efficient communication system that respects the environment.

Who is the Parish Plan and Design Statement for?

The Plan is written for the following groups of people:

Householders in the Parish - the Plan represents the views of residents and second home owners within the Parish. It highlights the areas that are of special concern and describes our vision for the future. It offers ideas for action that are largely for people in the Parish to take forward individually and co-operatively if they wish the Parish to retain what makes it special.

Landowners and farmers in the Parish who manage the land and provide rented accommodation.

Visitors to the Parish – local, day visitors and people staying here for holidays.

Architects, builders and households undertaking new builds, extensions or alterations to buildings.

Parish Council, the District Councillor representing the Parish, the District Council and the County Council The Plan is intended to assist the decision-making of local authorities and other bodies whose decisions affect our lives. It aims to influence local housing policies and it should contribute to the way local services are managed and delivered. *The Plan has been approved as part of the District Plan.* The Alnwick District Council's Local Plan Review gives explicit support to community engagement in preparing a Design Statement, and contains policy E1, which states that all development must be in keeping with the local character. The Design Statement supports this policy and, after adoption by the Alnwick District Council, it becomes a material consideration when determining planning applications.

The National Trust, AONB, English Nature, Tourist Board and other agencies are requested to take account of our views and consult and involve us in changes that may affect the quality of life in the Parish.

How the Parish Plan and Design Statement were produced

Summary of Parish consultation

The Parish Council agreed to support the production of a Parish Plan in November 2003. The inaugural meeting of the Plan group was held in April 2004 and was advertised and open to all residents. It was intended to be an informal and flexible body without discouraging anyone from participating and contributing to the Plan document. Examples of other Parish Plans were studied to see examples of different contents, layouts and presentations. The Plan builds on previous achievements in compiling a draft Village Design Statement and a Newton Appraisal. First a meeting of residents identified the issues affecting the Parish, and these were used to form the following four working groups that had the remit to research and write on specific topics:

Environmental:

Visual & landscape: Hedgerows, fields, lanes, copses, burns, dunes, obtrusive coastal developments, footpaths, tranquillity

Natural diversity: Sub-tidal, shore, seabirds, waders, woodlands, agricultural land and hedgerows, agricultural use of pesticides, pressure on coastal paths

Cultural: Archaeology, historic landscapes, agricultural, fishing, quarries and mines, built environment, architecture, villages, hamlets, farms, historic houses, roads and infrastructure

Social

Schools

Village hall

Waste collection

Economic

Housing: Residential, second homes, lack of affordable housing

Employment, disappearance of traditional employment

Tourism pressure

Transport Roads, paths, traffic, parking, public transport.

The topics in the Plan are derived from discussions, based on the themes and sub-themes of the four working groups. The working groups took the lead in designing a questionnaire (appendix B) that was sent to all households in July 2004. 127 questionnaires were returned, of which 90 (80% of resident households) were from permanent residents and 36 (56% of second and holiday homes) from second home owners. These represented the views of 307 people. Approximately equal numbers of men and women completed the questionnaire (61 men and 59 women with 6 respondents not identifying themselves). Only 5 respondents were aged 18 or less (2 girls and 3 boys). The results of this survey and consultation informed the content of the Plan.

The process of creating the Plan required members of the group to undertake research and write the text for the topics covered. These contributions were then debated, amended and adopted by the group. The meetings remained open to all residents, and attendance at meetings has varied from 4 – 30, with more than 40 residents attending at least one meeting and many more making informal contributions to members of the group. Nine meetings have been held to discuss the issues and contributions of residents. Those who expressed interest or attended meetings have received a record of all meetings.

Community Works consultants were employed to facilitate the consultation process through a series of workshops, to compile the survey findings and to edit the draft Plan. An exhibition showing the analysis of the questionnaire and draft text was held at Newton Church on 23rd & 24th October 2004 and further feedback and ideas were generated.

Parish Councillors have participated as members of the Plan group, and the Parish Council has been kept informed of progress and given its tacit approval and support to the project. Drafts of the Plan document were discussed by the Plan group and made available to residents in the Parish for comment. Stakeholders were given the opportunity to comment on the draft Plan in early 2005. Advice was sought from the ADC and NT and their comments were also debated by the group. Further consultation with the planning authorities occurred before final revisions to the document.

Funding was confirmed in March 2004 and the Plan produced in February 2005 at a total cost of £10,455 including £2,135 contribution in time from group members, facilities and materials from the community. £406 from the Village Appraisal Fund was also used. We thank the funders, The Countryside Agency, GOLD and the Parish Council, for enabling us to produce this Plan. Each household in the Parish and key stakeholders will receive a free copy of the Plan, which is also available on CD-ROM.

3. A brief history of the Parish

The history of the Parish is written clearly in the landscape and has created the attractive settlements that people appreciate today. We should ensure that a thriving community continues to make this a living landscape.

High Newton and Low Newton Newton's most distant historical link is with the Bronze Age. A grave, thought to be that of a Bronze Age chieftain, containing bones with a stone cairn was excavated on the hill where the Coastguard Lookout stands.

After the Norman Conquest of 1066, Newton is recorded as a manor in the Barony of De Vesci, the predecessors of the Percy family at Alnwick. The De Vesci family granted it to John Viscount⁴, for 'one knight's fee', the obligation to provide a knight ready for battle, when required. Quarrying is revealed as early as the first half of the 13th C. when John Viscount III granted half his stone quarry to Sir William Heron. There is also reference to an Adam Cementarius (meaning 'Quarryman' in Latin) living in Newton. Quarrying came to an end sometime before World War II.

Fishing was flourishing by the 14th C. and in 1342, the Lord of the Manor's claim to take the best fish from the catches at Newton as a 'profit of the Manor' was successfully challenged in the Manorial Court by a lessee of land in Newton. The value of the fish was 100 shillings, a very high price at the time and an indication of the prosperity of the fishing industry. The Lord of the Manor took no notice of the judgement and in 1352 he included the boat that was specially maintained to collect the profit in a transfer to a Scottish knight. Significant levels of fishing continued for over 600 years and ended in the 1960s.

Farming took place within the 'open field system', in which members of the community owned strips of land scattered through the township. They operated a one-in-three rotation system in which one field was kept fallow each year to allow it to recover its fertility. There are relics of the old system in three fields, where ridge and furrow marks echo the old field strips. Members of the community also had the right to graze a set number of animals on the common land. On the field near to 'The Willows' are the marks of a deserted medieval village: traces of two rows of houses facing each other across a village green. The open field system was a barrier to agricultural improvement and the process of 'Enclosure'⁵ began. In 1725, the six 'proprietors' of land in the township made an agreement by which their lands, previously held 'in common and undivided', were 'to be held in severalty' (i.e. in sole ownership) according to the proportions they held in the common fields.

Agricultural improvement led to a spurt of new building that has given Newton its distinctive architectural character. Within 50 years of their

⁴ Whose surname denotes an ancient connection with the office of Sheriff of Northumberland.

⁵ Creating fields with single undivided ownership.

agreement, one of the six proprietors, John Forster, employed William Newton, a talented Newcastle architect, to design and build Newton Hall. The terraces of The Square in Low Newton were constructed in the 18th C., although there must have been houses for fishermen there for as long as the fishing industry existed. 'The Ship Inn' may date from the 16th or 17th C. The Square is one of only two remaining sets of such 'Seahouses' left in Northumberland⁶, a detached settlement originally inhabited by fishermen to live close to their boats

Newton House was built before the end of the 18th C. and some of the old buildings of the village, including Wayside Cottage, The White House, Newham Cottage, Newton Cottage and High Newton Farm House probably date from the 18th C. or early 19th C. In 1828-29, the Coastguard Lookout and the two-storey terrace of Coastguard Cottages were built, providing accommodation for the coastguards and their families. About mid-19th C., 'The Rocket House' was built as a simple storehouse to house the vehicle and rockets that were used to provide rescue by Breaches Buoy from boats shipwrecked on the rocks.

Brunton was originally 'Burneton' (the settlement at Brunton Burn). The first recorded owner was Walter Bataill, between 1100-1135, whose ancestors held it with the adjoining township of Preston for one knight's fee. It passed to the Middleton family who held it until the 13th C., when their help to the Scots in the Border Wars resulted in its confiscation and occupation by crown tenants. In the early 14th C. it was granted to Sir John Stryvelyn who rebuilt the house and built a Chantry Chapel. In 1378, on the death of Sir John without issue, the township was restored to the Middleton family. Later it was owned by the families of the Carnabys, Lord Ogle, the Duke of Newcastle, the Duke of Portland and Sir George Grey.

Falldon is first recorded from 1100-1135 as a township within the Barony of Alnwick, held by the Lucker family. In the 12th C. there was a chapel at 'Falwedune' served by a chaplain Hugh. In 1547 the township was part of Sir Ralph Carnaby's land that passed to Sir Ralph Lawson, who in 1600 mortgaged it to John Salkeld of Hulne Abbey. The Salkelds were gardeners whose improvements attracted national attention. Samuel (1636-1698), the grandson of John, was probably the creator of the walled garden that is still surviving. The last of the Salkelds sold Falldon to Thomas Wood. He built and organised a free school at Burnhouses for children of Falldon, leaving an annuity to the schoolmaster to continue 'teaching gratis'. Thomas Wood's daughter married into the Grey family of Howick. Sir Edward Grey, 1st Viscount Grey of Falldon and Foreign Secretary at the outbreak of World War

⁶ 'The Square' appeared on maps until the 1930s as 'Newton Seahouses'. Probably, as a result of North Sunderland Seahouses growing so extensively in the 1930s the risk of confusion led to the use of 'Low Newton-by-the-Sea'.

I, is remembered for his prophetic comment: 'The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime'.

Doxford contains the important archaeological site of Dunstan Hill with a mound which is 'well-adapted for the purposes of a fort' indicating an Iron Age settlement. In the reign of Henry III (1216-1272) Doxford was held by Roger de Mering as part of the Barony of Gaugy for a quarter of a Knight's Fee. In 1304 it passed to the Doxford family, of whom it was said: 'they clung to their land more successfully than the more genteel greater landed proprietors'. Indeed, they held the land from 1304 to 1635. Since then the land has passed through various proprietors including Sir George Grey of Fallodon. In 1818 the then owner, Henry Taylor, commissioned John Dobson, Northumberland's most illustrious architect, to design and build the classical mansion of Doxford Hall. It was lost to the Runciman family in death duties half a century ago. It then operated as an old people's home until the 1990's.

Newton during the Second World War Farmland at Brunton was compulsorily purchased by the Ministry of Defence to construct an airfield, which post-war became the Border Parachute Centre for a number of years. The runways remain and the airfield now house a mobile radar station. Part of this is in the Parish and the rest in Berwick District. In the summer of 1940, when invasion was expected, the beaches along the coast were mined and concrete tank traps were constructed, still visible to the south of the tidal estuary of the Long Nanny. Concrete pillboxes remain adjacent to 'The Willows', and in front of Newton Cottage.

Residents Views

It is implicit in responses that people appreciate the historic landscape and vernacular building styles. This link to the past should be valued and reflected in developments.

In response to the question "Which archaeological and historic sites do you most value?" the following were marked on the map which also indicates the intensity of views of residents and second home owners:

Dunstan Hill
Doxford Hall
Fallodon Hall
Alansford
Brunton and Brunton Mill
Newton Hall
The bronze age settlement at High Newton
The footpath field at High Newton
Coastguards Lookout
The Square at Low Newton

Insert map showing what people thought were important archaeological and Historic sites.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (1)

Historical and archaeological sites

In relation to Policy Group A in Appendix A, and specifically to Policies HC3 - HC5 and BE1 – BE2, no development should be permitted that would have a detrimental effect on the following historical or archaeological sites or their settings:

- The medieval ridge and furrow in the footpath field behind Croft Place at Newton
- The Mill at Brunton, Doxford Hall or Fallodon Hall
- The Iron Age settlement on Dunstan Hill
- The site of the medieval village on the field near to 'The Willows'
- The site of a Bronze Age burial at Coastguard Lookout and
- Pill boxes adjacent to 'The Willows' and outside Newton Cottage

Ideas for action

The history of the Parish is an area that people find intriguing. The Parish could help people to appreciate its history and its relevance to today's living landscape through collecting stories, first-hand accounts, photographs, field names and other records. Previously held exhibitions should be repeated

4. The natural environment

The landscape, wide views and diversity of wildlife habitats are the greatest asset of the Parish. People perceive these features as being fragile and need to be protected. Everyone involved in the Parish are custodians of the landscape and there is a general willingness to share responsibility.

4.1 The Parish and its setting in the landscape

The Parish has dramatic views along the dunes, sandy beaches and bays, rocky headlands and shores coast and wide views across open farmland with woodland towards the Cheviot Hills and moors west of the A1. There are also wide views across the Parish of the coast from the A1. and wide horizons to the Cheviot Hills in the west and the North Sea in the east. These "wide horizons and ever-changing colours from ploughing to harvest" and contrasting landscapes are greatly appreciated.

Insert map showing favourite sites in Parish

The coastline, which lies within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and was cited by 57% of respondents as their favourite place and for 20% it was the countryside in the Parish, while 10% said "everything".

This view was echoed by 61% of second home owners who considered the coast to be the most valued feature of the landscape and specifically mentioned were:

- The space and unspoiled coastline

- the dunes and beaches - particularly Football Hole
- wild flowers, bird life
- views to Dunstanburgh castle and the rocks
- the sea and outcropped rock
- clean beaches

Countryside features mentioned were:-

- Wooded areas and open countryside, rolling fields, hedgerows, stone walls & buildings,
- Open views to the Cheviots
- Working farmland with reasonably traditional farming practices
- Lack of light pollution, night sky
- Wide horizons, ever-changing colours from ploughing to harvest
- The lake at Doxford
- The Whinsill and limestone
- The common land at High Newton, the footpath field, the bridge and woodland at Fallodon (Alansford)

Newton pool, although outside the Parish, was included.

The coastal landscape, with its diverse natural history and wide views over the seascape and Cheviots defines the character of the Parish. It is clear from the survey responses that the scenery of the coastal strip is the primary reason for many people coming to the Parish to live or stay, and it is the focus of most people's concern over future development of the Parish.

Insert map showing area of AONB in Parish (SSSI's & Special areas of conservation –SACs)

The coastal strip within the Parish is afforded some protection in law through designations as AONB, SSSI, SAC and as a prospective Marine Conservation Area. However, it is affected by development of adjacent private land for tourism, or to satisfy the high demand for second homes. This, together with a general increase in visitor numbers and recreational use of the sea, has raised the greatest concern amongst residents and second home owners for the future of Newton.

Residents' views

Areas of woodland should be extended in the burns in the Parish

Increase the number of coastal marshlands/wet meadows

More hay meadows, layered hedges and freshwater habitats

Farmers should be encouraged to protect saplings in hedgerows when using mechanical methods of hedge cutting. It would be good for the drainage to the Footpath field to be improved to prevent flooding without damage to the rig & furrow system.

The National Trust should not allow any developments such as increased height or spread of bungalows on the dunes that would substantially affect the landscape characteristics or views of Dunstanburgh Castle

Supplementary Planning Guidance (2)

Coastline landscape and views

1. In relation to Policies L2, L4, M1, M2 and RE14 – RE16 in Policy Group A in Appendix A, no development should be permitted that would adversely affect the character and distinctiveness of the following coastal landscape areas not specified as AONB such as the views to Dunstanburgh castle, the Farnes and Bamburgh castle.
2. No developments that would substantially affect the landscape characteristics or views of Alwick Moor, Ross Castle and Cheviot from the coast should be permitted. Careful attention needs to be given to the impact of developments such as Brisley, masts and wind farms or tree planting on, or near, skylines that would alter the character of views from and over the surrounding areas.
3. The Parish supports the policies in the ADC District Wide Local Plan H2 & H10 Any proposed developments that have a potential impact on Newton's special character and diversity of landscapes should be subject to special scrutiny by the planning authorities and the National Trust.
4. There should be no future housing or business development in landscape areas worthy of protection.
5. The quality of the landscape should be maintained through existing AONB policies, paying attention to the scale, character and detail of buildings in new developments and alterations.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (3)

Farmland and woodland

1. In relation to Policy Group A in Appendix A, and specifically to Policies L7, L10, L11, RE9 – RE12 and RE19, no development should be permitted that would adversely affect the distinctive character of countryside in the areas such as Brunton Dene, Doxford, Alansford, the wooded areas and open countryside especially
 - Ancient field features
 - Hedgerows, burns and other linear wildlife corridors
2. Ancient woodlands and semi natural woodlands at Fallodon & Doxford should be protected from developments that would affect their nature or landscape value
3. Semi-natural woodlands at Fallodon and Doxford should be protected from developments that would affect their nature or landscape value.
4. Any developments at Fallodon and Doxford should incorporate tree planting using native species to enhance the landscape value.

Ideas for action

Record panoramic views

Tree planting schemes to improve landscape

Participate in Parish and National Trust schemes to improve landscape

4.2 Natural history

Geology, soils and dunes

14 Feb 05

Most of the coastal rock was laid down in horizontal layers during the carboniferous period (295-360 million years ago), when Britain was near the equator and this area was a vast river delta and swamp. Periodically, the land sank, was covered by a shallow sea and shells of marine animals accumulated to produce limestone. The river brought down sediments, which mixed with the shells to form calcareous shale, or mixed with sand to form sandy shale. Pure sand formed sandstone and the swamps produced coal. The underlying strata of limestone, shale, sandstone and coal were thus formed in alternate layers, repeated over millions of years.

About 300 million years ago, Cheviot was an active volcano and its erupting magma pushed up and tilted the horizontal bedrocks. Igneous magma pushed up through vertical cracks and spread between the layers of tilted strata to form the Great Whin Sill. This runs from Cross Fell in Cumbria, through Durham and Northumberland to Holy Island and the Farne Islands. It outcrops in the Parish at Pern Carr at Newton Point and Snook Point, either side of Football Hole, and also forms Emblestones in Newton Haven. The Great Limestone locally lies on top of the whin sill and was altered by the heat from the molten magma to form rock almost as durable as the whin. It underlies the fields at Newton Point and forms Lobster Carr. Whin and other stone was quarried in a small way at Quarry House in Newton and other locations, from which much of the local building materials were quarried. There are also small coal seams that have been worked up until the late 1800's and their remains can be seen in the fields at Newton road end. Quarries and coal mines have left a legacy of small ponds forming refuges for duck. Many have been partially filled in.

Soils in the Parish are generally brown soils that are nutrient rich. Locally, underlying limestone produces lime-rich soils and thin acidic soils overlay whin. The dune sand contains a high proportion of shell fragments to produce a lime rich soil and the Loring Survey of 1982 identified Newton's extensive calcareous dune systems, from the southern end of Beadnell Bay to the northern end of Embleton Bay, as among the best dune sites on the Northumberland Coast because of the dune slacks and representative flora (Bloody Cranesbill, Purple Milkvetch, Lesser Meadow Rue and Burnet Rose plus Pyramidal Orchid and 4 other species). This area of the Northumberland coast is geomorphologically interesting for the abrupt and spectacular change from flat beach to high fixed dunes, some 15 metres (50 feet) high. This is in contrast to the gradual increase of fore dune to yellow dune and is typical of the East coast where prevailing Westerly winds cause steep, shallow dune systems. Dunes are an important sea defence as well as a feature of the coast, and they provide shelter for livestock on the landward side. The dunes are a fragile ecosystem and increasing numbers of people, dogs and inappropriate activities disturb and damage the dunes and the wildflowers, invertebrates and mammals they support.

Insert map of land usage

The agricultural landscape

The coastal strip defined by the A1 is generally flat. However, there are glacial features that run north/south just seaward of the A1. Deposits of earthy gravels and mounds of finer sands and silts were laid down either under the ice sheets or as the ice retreated. For example, there is a sinuous esker running from Spindlestone to Fallodon. These mounds have remains of prehistoric (iron age) forts and are often used as pasture in the present day. The main drainage of land within the Parish is the Brunton Burn and its many tributaries. None are more than streams although there was sufficient flow to power a mill at Brunton and Fallodon and possibly others too. *Insert map of wildlife corridors*

There are a number of small woodland plantations in the Parish and there is a more or less continuous strip of woodland from Fallodon and the A1 at Doxford to Beadnell Bay following Brunton Burn. Other plantations are found generally scattered along the streams. Most of the tree cover is west of the railway line, and associated with the Fallodon and the Doxford Estates where there are also plantations of Scots pines and mixed deciduous and coniferous trees. An independently managed saw mill is located at the site of the former estate saw mill at Fallodon.

Agriculture is the major land use within the Parish. The railway line roughly divides the better agricultural land, which produces wheat barley and oats, from land nearer to the sea that produces oilseed rape, beans and silage. This land is also pasturing for cattle and sheep, which stay out all winter and there are substantial areas of set-aside. Fields are moderately small, and field boundaries are formed by hedges, ditches and old stone walls, all of which provide corridors, shelter and food for the prolific and diverse wild life. The hedges, mostly planted in the early 1900's and having a low diversity of tree species, are largely of hawthorn with some blackthorn, beech, holly, blackberry, dog rose and honeysuckle. The lines of water courses are studded with mature ash, sycamore, beech and oak trees.

Common Land

Four pieces of land (called Newton Common) were registered by the Parish Council in 1968 as being common land and since this was not disputed the claim became final on 1st October 1970 (register unit No. CL 26). The following shows the land and management plan agreed by the Parish Council in 2002.

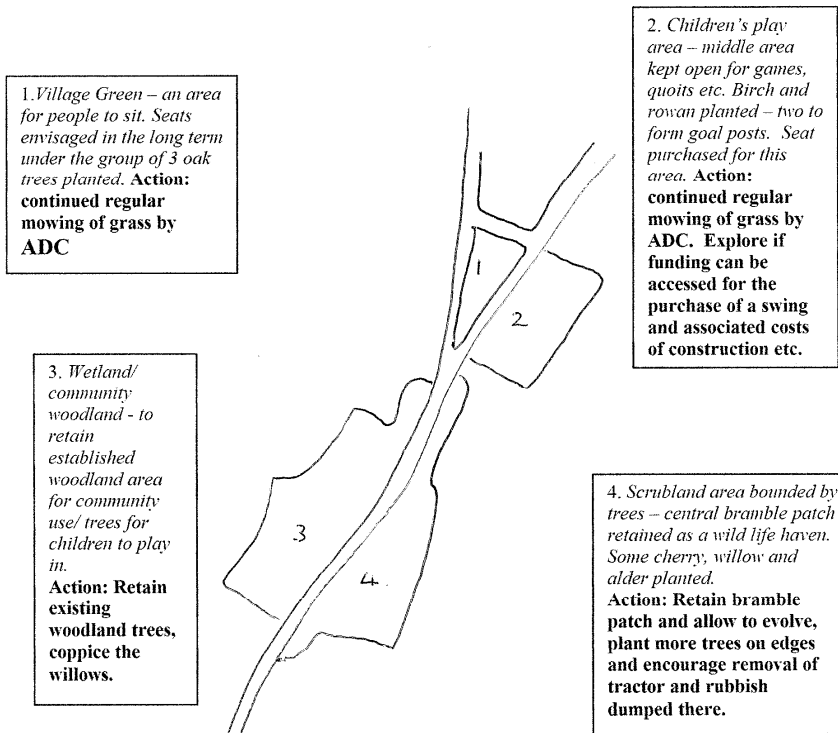
Newton by the Sea Parish Council
Agreed management of the Common Land in the Parish.
 July 2002

It was agreed at the Council Meeting in March that there should be positive management of the common land by the Parish Council. This is the management plan agreed at the Parish Council Meeting in July.

It is based on the rationale for the tree-planting scheme in 1996 which aimed to:

- capitalise on natural features on the common land
- think about its use by villagers and wildlife

This is stated in italics below. The agreed management plan is in bold. As far as possible it aims to be self managing and so keep costs minimal as along as the community is willing to give some time. Kevin Redgrave is willing to offer advice and overview the management.



Plants

Marram grass, lyme grass and dune couch grass grow in the dunes. Inland from the coast, marram gives way to coarse grassland and then pasture. The many microclimates provided by the shelter of the dunes, and the damper areas in hollows (known as 'slacks'), allow the colonisation of a rich diversity of plant species, some of which are rare. The National Trust (NT) manages the dunes for wildflowers, and owns the hay meadow around Newton Point. A national sand-dune survey in 1989 listed 122 species of plants in the dunes, and in the wider area covered by the survey there are over 150 wild flowering plants, including rare species. The diversity of soils explains why acid soil loving, and limestone soil loving plants, uniquely may be found only a few inches apart. The lilac-pink *Geranium sanguineum* has recently been chosen as the emblem of Northumberland.

Mammals

There are good populations of mammals in the Parish, such as wood mice, common and pygmy shrews, bank- and short-tailed voles, rabbits and their predators, stoats, weasels, foxes and short-eared owls.

The streams and woodlands form a network of wildlife corridors throughout the Parish that support badgers, roe deer and smaller mammals and the now endangered red squirrel. Otters frequent water courses and occasionally Newton Pool. The internationally important grey seals population is associated particularly with the Farne Islands in this region but they also haul out on outlying rocks and the Emblestones. To hear the seals "singing" during the quiet, light nights of the summer is one of the very special things about living near the coast.

There are regular sightings of porpoises, dolphins and occasional sightings of whales, including Pilot and Minkie.

Birds

The rich and varied environment in Newton supports the 200 species of birds that have been observed in the Parish. The sea supports deep- and shallow-fishing birds and the beaches provide food for birds that like to feed along the tide-line, in rock pools or among seaweed. The fine worm-rich sand in the Haven attracts large numbers of wading birds. The reefs in the Haven provide nesting sites for the eider duck, and together with the platform at Newton Point, they provide areas for cormorants to dry their wings, a seal haul-out and fishing stations for herons. Newton Pool supports both surface-feeding and diving birds. The reeds and marshland areas provide a larder for birds of differing tastes. The plants and grasses of the dunes provide homes for invertebrates, which provide food for yet more species of birds. The dunes are important breeding habitats for grey partridge, shelduck, meadow pipit, stonechat, and skylark. Other habitats and food sources include the dune grassland and rough pastureland, which has gorse on the acid soils of the whin, hedges for berries and nesting, lichen covered walls, ditches, streams, trees, and small ponds. There are flooded fields and salt marsh which supply important seasonal wetlands for wintering birds. In addition there are other water habitats on the lakes at Fallodon Hall and Doxford Farm, and in domestic gardens.

Newton is internationally important for providing rest, food and shelter for migrating birds on the East Atlantic fly-zone. In winter 26 species may be observed feeding at the water's edge or amongst seaweed. Migrating birds, such as the curlew and redshank, relocate between the coast and the moorland where they breed. The longest distance traveller, the Arctic tern, flies from the Antarctic to breed around the northern coasts of Britain. The NT provides a 24-hour watch for Little Terns at the Long Nanny from May to August when they are nesting. This is Britain's second most rare breeding seabird and increased pressure on beaches has led to its decline. Eighty three of Britain's most endangered birds breed within Newton Parish.

Reptiles and invertebrates including butterflies

There are all three species of newts in the Parish – Great Crested, Smooth and Palmate.

The dunes support 22 rare species of invertebrate *such as ?????*. The wide range of acid-loving and lime-loving species of plants in Newton means that it is a haven for invertebrates including a good number of butterflies and moths. Fifteen species of butterflies were observed on the dunes at Low Newton in 2000, of these several including the Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell are increasing in numbers. Warmer conditions are allowing expansion of territory by some butterflies from other areas, such as Large and Small Skipper, Ringlet, Wall Brown and Dark Green Fritillary.

Marine Life

All of the intertidal and subtidal areas in the Parish form part of the Berwickshire and North Northumberland candidate European Marine Site. The qualifying features from Annex 1 of the EU Habitats Directive that are found within the Parish are rocky reefs (both above and below the low tide mark) and grey seals which haul out on reefs off Newton. The rocky headlands, reefs, gullies, flat rocks, rock pools and sandy shores provide a rich and varied environment for a wide diversity of marine life. Rocky shores have barnacles and furoid seaweeds typical of semi-exposed locations. The reef overhangs and boulder habitats are particularly rich in sponges, sea squirts and hydroids. The semi-enclosed bay of Newton Haven is unusual for the open coast in that the protection of the reef allows a richer fauna to develop. Species such as the heart urchin and razor shells are found here between the tides. The inshore habitats support a fishery for edible crab, lobster and (more recently) the swimming crab using creels.

The National Trust

Newton lies at the centre of 19 km (12 miles) of coastline owned by the NT, and it owns all of the coastline in the Parish, except the access to Beadnell Bay and some dunes near to the Long Nanny. The foreshore (the area between the high and low water marks) within the Parish are leased from the Crown Estate Commissioners by the National Trust. This is because of the rich, and often rare marine flora and fauna found in these waters. The NT also leases the sea-bed at Newton Haven extending to the Fills, which enables the NT to control the moorings there. A hydrographic survey carried out in 1986 recommended 25 moorings for boats in the Haven. A Trust Warden supervises the Boat Park and there is a Mooring Holders' Club. The Haven is not a 'day launch' beach, and vehicles are allowed on the beach only for launch in spring and for recovery in the autumn to minimise damage.

The coastline from Low Newton to Newton Links was purchased by the NT in 1983 and totals 47.35 Ha.(117 acres). The Trust manages this area as a wildflower meadow and no fertilizer has been used since it was purchased. The hay is not cut until the flowers have set seed and the skylarks have finished nesting. Stocking numbers of sheep and cattle are controlled, and they are removed at nesting time to avoid trampling the nests and chicks.

In addition to coast and habitat management, such as upkeep of paths, stonewalls and fences, the NT provides educational facilities from its office in Low Newton. It employs three full-time employees.

Newton Pool

Although Newton Pool (the 'National Trust Nature Reserve'), is outside the Parish it is important ornithologically, and is easily accessed from behind Low Newton Square. The NT purchased it in 1972 and manages it as a nature reserve covering 6 Ha. (2.4 acres). It has two bird hides from which 156 species of bird, including 40 breeding species, can be observed. The seasonally flooded field north of Newton Pool is very important for over-wintering geese and waders and acts as a buffer for disturbed birds to roost and feed.

The natural environment of the Parish is greatly valued by residents whose work is associated with the land and sea as well as for leisure purposes. This appreciation is shared by second homeowners, holiday makers and day visitors. Love of the peace, quiet and abundance of flora and fauna in this beautiful stretch of coast provides a common bond for a diverse population. The Little Tern colony and migrating birds attract serious birdwatchers as well as those with a more general interest. Residents also assist the National Trust in monitoring the butterflies along the coast and litter collections.

4.3 Conserving and enhancing our environment

In Newton's unique and fragile environment anything that disturbs the biodiversity has a far-reaching effect: birds require undisturbed feeding and nesting; picked wild flowers cannot seed themselves, and too many people can obliterate fragile and rare plants upon which insects depend, and which in turn provide food for birds. Over the last 30 years the level of recreational activity in the Parish has increased significantly. The impact of further increases in visitor numbers is likely to upset the present balance between people being able to enjoy the natural environment and destroying the very things that draw them the Newton. There is a very real danger that the emphasis by One North East on tourism as the main thrust of economic development is not taking account of the particular circumstances in Newton. The ADC Structure Plan addresses these issues and this is supported by the Parish. This Plan reinforces the need to balance preservation of the coastal landscape with demands for development.

Residents view the following specific habitats as being under threat and where enhanced protection is required:

- The Tern colony at the Long Nanny could be disturbed by increased water based and other recreational activities
- Fragile dune systems damaged by increased activity
- Coastal grasslands and Newton church plantation.
- Coastal wetlands and marsh orchids.
- Inter-tidal pools and damage caused by commercial bait diggers disturbing sandy shore life (particularly sea potatoes and razor shells) at Newton Haven.
- Threats to seal habitats at the Emblestones caused by increased water based activities.

- Habitats for red squirrels, tree sparrows, sky larks; foxes, badgers and thrushes.
- Habitats for bats and swallows (The conversion of old farm buildings has reduced the stock of habitats).
- Habitats for barn owls at St Mary's church.
- Pollution of land and streams by Agrivert and other agricultural run-off.
- Ponds and old quarries lost to landfill by farmers.
- Lime trees at Doxford Hall.
- Potential threat to bird habitats (particularly migratory birds) and animal habitats from new house building.

People who live and work in the Parish and those who have second homes have a big responsibility for the protection of the environment, especially in the early part of the year when birds are nesting. People who let their property as holiday homes should raise the awareness of visitors also. Areas of uncontrolled growth of weeds such as thistles and nettles in fields, verges and common land provide essential habitats for much wildlife. Households, farmers and authorities needs to respect the sensitive balance between tidiness and need for wildlife friendly environments.

Residents Views:

- All policies that state that no development should be permitted that would adversely affect the integrity or continuity of wildlife habitats is fully supported and should be more sensitively upheld.
- Nesting places should be protected from too much disturbance by people or dogs, to enable birds to breed successfully.
- Farmers should be encouraged to reduce applications of fertilizer and pesticides to lessen their effects on biodiversity and impact on the small streams through run-off.
- The NT should explore the possibility of extending the area of protected coastal grasslands and coastal wetlands in Beadnell Bay and around Newton Church.
- Farmers should be encouraged to increase the number of habitats for red squirrels, tree sparrows, barn owls, sky larks; foxes, badgers and thrushes by tree-planting, by land set-aside and retention of ponds, and by ceasing to use old quarries for landfill.
- The owners of all old properties, farm buildings and parkland should be encouraged to protect trees and any bats residing there and should be encouraged to protect the habitats of swallows, owls and bats.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (4)

Protection of wildlife habitats

1. Newton Links and Newton Pool are specifically included in ADC policies, but in relation to Policies N1 – N4, RE1 – RE4, RE7 and RE13 in Policy Group A in Appendix A no development should be permitted that would adversely affect the integrity or continuity of wildlife habitats in the following areas that

are not specifically identified in the above policies as nature reserves or SSSIs:

- Sheltered sandy bay at Newton Haven
- Brunton Burn and its woodland, scrub and stream sides
- Remaining unploughed pasture and semi-natural grassland

2. All decisions relating to tourism promotion and development should avoid adverse impacts by increased pressure from developments and new trends that causes disturbance of wilderness areas by intensive recreational use.

3. There should be restrictions on use of jet skis and speedboats in Beadnell Bay and no further increase in the number of powered vessels at Newton Haven

4. Any significant development should be preceded by an environmental impact survey to ensure that habitats are protected against disturbance.

5. There should be restrictions on the use of quad bikes and motorcycles on beaches at Newton Links.

6. Restrictions on bait digging at Newton Haven should continue to be enforced.

ADC should not approve licences for land-fill in old quarries in the Parish

Ideas for action

- People can make their gardens more wildlife friendly by creating ponds, planting native trees, shrubs and wildflowers
- Take part in schemes to enhance wildlife habitats (organised by Parish council and National Trust)
- Explore possibilities of awareness-raising schemes, such as guided walks and exhibitions.
- Residents, second home owners and visitors to take care, particularly in February to June to keep to footpaths, keep dogs under control and avoid activities which would disturb nesting birds or damage the ecosystem.
- Relocate yellow grit bins from Low Newton to a less visible location
- Liaise with MOD to remove airfield buildings and Brunton airfield radar globe
- Endeavour to have electricity pylons and telegraph poles in conspicuous locations (e.g., Newton) removed and have services relocated underground
- Liaise with local farmers to remove tall silos when they are to be replaced or become redundant
- Encourage landowners to plant trees and retain mature trees around fields
- Encourage owners to clean ditches at Newton Hall and the field between Croft Place and Quarry House, to improve drainage and prevent flooding .
- Encourage farmers and landowners to create more hay meadows, layered hedges, freshwater habitats and areas managed for wildlife within farmland

- Remove cultivated plants on common land and return to native species

4.4 Pollution

Many residents and second home owners expressed concern over different types of pollution in the Parish. Atmospheric pollution caused by spreading Agrivert on fields received the strongest criticism, but smells from polluted streams were also noted. Some commented on the smell of seaweed, however this is a natural characteristic of the beach and the name of "Old Stinky" for Newton is historical!

There is a pride in the lack of light pollution, and concern at the threat from security lights at the caravan site and other houses which are left on all night. The sight of the milky way and occasionally the Northern Lights is very special and North Northumberland is the only part of the UK still unaffected by light pollution.

Noise pollution from jet skis and speedboats and the increased number of powered vessels at Newton Haven, motorcycles, low-flying aircraft, loud music and radios on the beach, and barking dogs was also considered to be a problem.

Unsightly litter, overflowing refuse bins, poor storage of blue bins and waste bins behind The Ship PH were also noted by survey respondents as requiring attention.

It is acknowledged that refuse is a problem for holiday makers and the provision of a recycling site in the Parish was discussed but because of the associated noise and broken glass it was rejected. Rather use of the recycling facilities at Embleton should be encouraged.

Residents Views:

- The peace, quietness, seclusion, and closeness to nature are particularly important to residents and should be preserved.
Agrivert should not be dumped near holiday hot spots in the summer

Ideas for action

- Farmers should be requested to spread Agrivert quickly after it has been delivered to fields. In the longer term, the use of Agrivert should be reduced.
- Home owners should adjust security lighting to minimise light pollution in neighbouring properties and preferably use heat- or motion-activated lighting.
- Replacement of light at High Newton by downward directed light that doesn't stay on all night.
- Home owners and landlords should make provision for the unobtrusive storage of waste bins and blue recycling bins.
- Request the owners of the Ship PH to remove large catering bins at rear onto their private land.
- Liaise with ADC to require refuse collectors to return waste bins to individual cottages
- Bungalow owners should be encouraged to use the recycling point at Embleton and so reduce the rubbish in their green bins.
- Liaise with ADC to enforce fines for littering
- Liaise with MOD to reduce the numbers of low-flying aircraft over the Parish

- Raise awareness of visitors that the peace, quietness, seclusion, and closeness to nature are particularly important to residents and should be preserved.

5. The built environment

Building development and alterations to existing buildings is seen as, potentially, the largest threat to the vision of the Parish. Restrictions on development are welcomed but higher standards for architecture should be set. Listed buildings make a large contribution to the character of the Parish and alterations must be carried out with great sensitivity.

Map of the Parish showing housing, roads and footpaths

5.1 The Parish Layout and its buildings

The characteristics of Newton Parish can be summarised as having 2 villages, High and Low Newton, scattered settlements at Fallodon, Doxford and farm steadings with other buildings at Brunton, Newton Barrnes and Cold Harbour. There is high proportion of listed buildings (Appendix D); low-density housing; traditional stone buildings and walls predominate.

High Newton lies inland by about 0.8 km (half a mile) from the sea. On approaching the village from the West, the tall mansion of Newton Hall, built in 1847 for the Forster Family, is

followed by the Caravan Park, partly hidden behind hedges. This holiday settlement is of a considerable size in relation to the village. High Newton comprises the village green, Newton Hall, Newton House and a few whinstone houses, including The Joiners Arms PH and the cottage behind it, Rose Cottage and the lower half of some of the farm cottages. The few original houses are widely spaced, but there is much recent in-fill of diverse bungalows in the last decade or so that has increased the housing density. To the north of High Newton, the lane to Newton Links Farm passes a farm conversion at High Newton Farm and a terrace of small, restored cottages before reaching a NT car park at the Links Farm, where there are more building conversions. 1.6 km (1 mile) to the west of High Newton is Newton Barns. This is a farm steading at present being converted into dwellings. There are also two modern, brick-built bungalows to the south before the turn to Newton .

Most of the residential development took place from the middle of the 20th C. At High Newton, this included a terrace of bungalows at Bickerton Close fronting the village green, infill with individual houses, and a few additional plots on the fringe of the village.

Between is the Church.....*some more information needed here*

The lane leading to Low Newton is low lying and a ridge blocks views of the sea until the lane rises and Low Newton comes into view. The wide-open

views beyond Quarry House, much valued by residents, stretch towards the Cheviots.

Low Newton The oldest buildings in the Parish are of whinstone and the stone for buildings in The Square probably came from a quarry north of Low Newton, where Quarry House now stands. The picturesque square of single-storey, whitewashed whinstone cottages are set round three sides of a green with the fourth side open to the sea. The only two-storey building is 'The Ship Inn'. This part of the village is the oldest and the most appreciated by residents. The outhouses behind The Square have been converted into additional holiday lets. The Coastguards cottages.....*Do we have some more info ?*

The Coastguard's Lookout is owned by the National Trust and has been converted into rented holiday accommodation. Newton Haven (also called St Mary's Haven) lies to the north of Embleton Bay, and has spectacular views of Dunstanburgh Castle. The survey results show clearly that a large majority of respondents appreciate the bay here. At Low Newton, most recent development has been on the hillside, taking advantage of the views towards Dunstanburgh Castle.

Falldon spans the railway line in the centre of the Parish. It is an agricultural area owned almost entirely by Falldon Estates, formally the property of Earl Grey of Falldon, for whom the request stop at the level crossing once operated. The East Lodge lies by the crossing, and a short way down the drive beyond is the Hall, which was gutted by fire in 1917 and rebuilt as a two-storey brick building with sandstone ashlar dressings. A handful of traditional cottages are tucked among the trees along the drive, which eventually emerges at West Falldon where there is a second lodge. Here there is a substantial farmhouse, farm buildings and cottages, three of which are holiday lets. Cold Harbour is the estate's farm to the south of the Parish. It comprises a traditional farmhouse and cottages, and is approached via the West Falldon – Christon Bank road. Falldon Burnhouses is the site of the 19th C. estate school; the original whinstone schoolroom is hidden behind a remodelled façade. This part of the Parish is least affected by modern changes, and survey respondents appreciated the landscape, footpaths, traditional houses and rural quality of life in this area.

Brunton is the farm in the north of the Falldon estate, and is approached by the tunnel under the railway. A lovely mansion, Brunton House, looks south across the fields and behind it are the farm buildings and associated cottages. Brunton Mill stands close to Brunton Burn, with the old millpond beyond. The burn meets the Mill Burn 0.8 km (half a mile) inland, and this is where the redundant Falldon Mill is found.

?? operated as Keepers Cottage until *when?* and is now an equestrian establishment.

Doxford Hall on the lane west from Burnhouses is now no longer part of the Doxford Estate. The lane meanders through an avenue of copper beeches and thick rhododendron hedges to the stately sandstone entrance and its idiosyncratic lodge. From there the hall can be glimpsed beyond a quadrant of limes and chestnuts. The stables remain part of the estate, and so retain early Victorian features of the coach house and cottages, which seem timeless.

Comment [BFS1]:

Doxford Farm and Doxford Dairy are the only parts of the Doxford Estate that lie within Newton Parish; the rest is further west. The dairy used to operate beside the stables and is now a livery. The small farmhouse faces north across the cricket field to trees in which Lord Runciman's home is hidden, on the site of the old cricket pavilion. West of the hall is a further lodge, and a few traditional stone cottages. Behind these is the old estate 'hut', which the Runcimans brought from their estate on the island of Eigg to serve as a community centre, and is now a house. Doxford Farm can be reached by bridle track from this side of the estate, and is accessible by road from the lane south of West Fallodon. The large stone farmhouse was built at the same time as the hall and the beautifully sited farm cottages are holiday lets. The farm has diversified in recent years, and part of the original steading (farm buildings) has become 'Doxford Country Store' - a few shops, gallery and a cafe grouped around a courtyard. ??There are also signed walks through woodland, past ponds, streams and hides on a fascinating ramble around Doxford Estate.

Residents' Views

Any developments should consider their impact on the wider landscape in which they are situated.

ADC should better enforce planning regulations to protect listed buildings and their surrounds.

Tree preservation orders should be used more in parkland and enforced

Supplementary Planning Guidance (5)

Pattern of settlements

1. In relation to Policies HC9, H1, H2, H10, H12, S1, S3, S5, S7, S8 and S10 in Policy Group B in Appendix A, the patterns of settlement in Newton Parish should be preserved.
2. The provisions of Policy H1 (New housing development will normally be permitted only where there is an exceptional local need within the settlements of....) should be extended to include other settlements within the Parish as well as High Newton-by-the-Sea and Low Newton-by-the-Sea.
3. The Parish Council support the presumption is against any development at other locations or in open countryside unless exceptional local need can be demonstrated and would like to see clear evidence of this need. Local need should be seen not just within the Parish, but in a wider context of adjacent parishes.

Comment [BFS2]: I thought this was already the case?

*Note: is Newton in the Green Belt? – remove policies S3 and S5 if not
Do you want to say anything about conversion of redundant farm buildings to*

housing?

A large majority of survey respondents (89%) agree with the ADC Local District Wide Plans that restrict housing development in the Parish, especially in the coastal AONB. However, there were concerns expressed as to how this is implemented by ADC, their lack of 'listening to local opinion' in planning matters, and the lack of willingness by the Parish Council to oppose developments in sensitive areas.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (6)

Listed buildings

In relation to Policies HC7, BE3 and BE4 in Policy Group B in Appendix A, attention should extend to the gardens, their buildings and their wider surrounds which are part of their special value. This should also be taken into consideration for any planned developments or alterations of nearby sites or properties.

Ideas for Action

It is the responsibility of homeowners to ensure that any alterations and extensions are in keeping with the local landscape and that trees and other existing landscape features should not be damaged or destroyed.

5.2 Building characteristics

Drawings and photographs have been commissioned to be inserted in this section to show style of architecture and scale, proportion and character of housing

Houses

The earliest houses, such as those in The Square at Low Newton were constructed of whin with red pantile roofs, many of which have disappeared. Most were terraced with either a single storey or with dormer windows in the roof. Continuous 'net lofts' linked the attics, where fishermen spread their nets. The farmhouse at Links Farm is constructed of whin, but most Parish farmhouses are made of sandstone - the material used later. The Stables and Stable Cottage are examples of single storey buildings, and Brunton Farm cottages are examples of two-storey housing. Stylistically, they seem to be of a later date as the whin is dressed and there are regular sandstone quoins. A whin quarry behind the farm most likely provided the stone. The whin cottages are mostly pre-1800 and although they cannot be precisely dated, records show that some were there in the mid 18th C. The old school room at Fallodon is an example of a single-storey, undressed whin building, built c1740, but later extensions and outside lavatories are of sandstone.

By Georgian times sandstone was used ubiquitously and local quarries abounded. Pantile roofs gave way to slate. Flat-fronted, two-storey cottages having handsome dressed quoins, mullions and lintels were often built in pairs or short terraces. Examples can be seen at Doxford West Cottages (N^os 3 & 4), Doxford Stable Cottages, farm cottages at Cold Harbour and along the

lane to Links Farm. By late Victorian times, materials had not changed but styles had become more elaborate. N^os 1 & 2 West cottages at Doxford clearly show this progression, and N^os 5 & 6 show how even in the 1950s, sandstone was used effectively to marry 20th C. architecture with previous eras. Recycled stone from the demolished kitchen wing at Preston Tower was used for the latter pair of cottages. Other sandstone buildings of this era include the oldest part of the school at Newton, later additions being of whin. This building has been much altered and is now a house.

Whereas sandstone was mostly dressed and unpainted, older cottages were often whitewashed or rendered or both. The rendering was seen as a means of weatherproofing or tidying roughcast buildings. In post-war Northumberland quarrying was not an option. *Why?* Farm cottages were constructed from rendered brick. They were usually single storey pairs in grey, which helped to fit in with the traditional stone. Examples are at Brunton (1964 – *I am not sure what the number refers to*) and at West Fallodon. Later the *District ?* Council built the row of houses beyond The Joiner's Arms PH and a small single-storey row at the other side of the green, which are rendered and unobtrusive.

The traditional buildings of the Parish consist of predominantly stone construction with simple plan form arising from the growth in the agricultural economy early in the 18th C. The rectangular plan footprint in most cases generates a building with gables and a pitched roof. The agricultural plan width determines the height and this is usually 4.8 metres (16 feet) or "one bay width" being the width required for tethering a horse or cow and space for passing behind them. Roof heights generated by the plan are controlled by pitch; low pitches are unusual and were introduced mid 19th C in for example the Lodge buildings at Doxford. The average pitch throughout the District appears to be 40-42°. Roof coverings traditionally consists of Welsh slate and pantiles from Holland. There are numerous examples of this type of roof pitch and covering throughout the Parish. Therefore, the basic vernacular buildings emerged from robust, simple buildings without pretension or decoration, and requiring no modern structural intervention in the form of steel to allow spans greater than 4.8 metres (15.7 feet). Doors and windows are almost always simply detailed without aspiring to Georgian, Victorian or modern styles.

32% of residents identified old Whinstone cottages in vernacular architecture or traditional local styles of construction as being particularly pleasing and in keeping with the landscape. Other buildings of note included Coastguards Cottages, Doxford Hall stables, Fallodon Hall, the Square at Low Newton, Newton Links cottage, Newton Hall, High Newton Home Farm development, Dunstanburgh Castle, St Mary's Church, Railway buildings at Christon Bank, and the beach chalets (the last not strictly in the Parish, but closer to Low Newton than any other settlement).

Both residents and second home owners clearly identified the styles of architecture that they do not like. Nearly all focussed on new buildings, for

example: modern houses that are not in keeping with the villages and in all too many instances, there has been no attempt to achieve and high architectural standard. Of particular criticism are: new brick buildings, that are too tall and too large; kit bungalows; the random style of post-1960s buildings and big Newton bungalows more suited to suburbia, especially those with large drives of inappropriate materials. 27% of residents and 47% of second home owners directed criticism at the development at Boatman's Place. Other features that were disliked include: a 'pseudo classical/oriental garden in Kareith Drive at High Newton, Dutch barn type semis at Low Newton; and the roof angle and huge roofs of Croft Place'.

Most residents consider that private housing developments have made little attempt to fit in with existing or traditional buildings, especially in High Newton and Low Newton, where the houses that are considered by survey respondents as most offensive lie.

Halls

The agricultural improvement of the 18th C. is symbolised by the building of the imposing classical mansion of Newton Hall and the country houses at Fallodon and Doxford. Of the country seats in the Parish Doxford is the most significant, designed by John Dobson. It is described by Pevsner in 1957 as a "nice classical house with five-bay front and Greek Doric porch *in antis*...c20 additions by Machlen & Weightman". After these additions were allowed to fall into disrepair, they were demolished and the current major building programme to develop a Country Hotel begun.

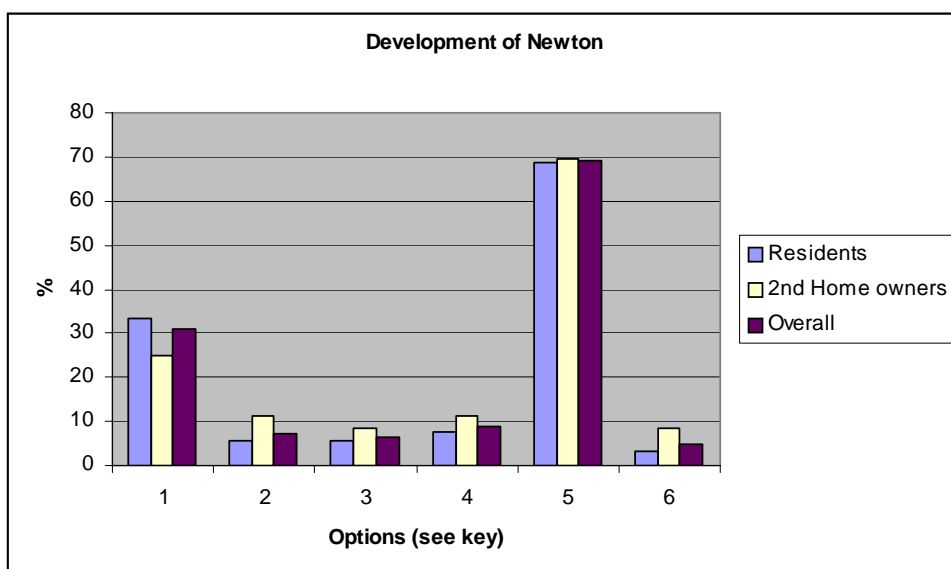
The original Fallodon Hall was built in the 1720s or 1730s, but it was gutted by fire and rebuilt minus its second storey c1921. It is a two-storey edifice with seven bays and segment-headed windows, built of brick with sandstone dressings. Occupied as a private house and surrounded by parkland and its own farms, Fallodon Hall is well-maintained by its owners.

Newton Hall is a very tall (*number of storeys??*) sandstone house from 1750. It was built to replace Old Newton hall, a whinstone and pantile-roofed house that once stood at the entrance to the village but was demolished in 1948, although its sandstone and brick garden walls still stand. A white-painted Edwardian house fronts the site, and a varied selection of late 20th C houses have been built in the grounds. Newton house is a later, probably early Victorian, estate house. The other house of any size is Brunton House, a handsome sandstone house, comprising two parts of similar age, probably late Georgian, and the largest house on the Fallodon estate.

6. Living in the Parish

Although the Parish has widely scattered settlements and skewed demographics, there is a desire to maintain the quality of life which is greatly valued. To stay as it is will take an effort - it requires a clear strategy and action. If we do nothing external forces will impose unwanted change on the Parish. Actions to support the local economy and to enable and encourage young people to live and work locally are essential to ensure the life blood of the Parish. A group of residents and second home owners is needed to put some of the ideas in this Plan into action in order to continue, and increase, the sense of community.

The residents' survey indicated that a large majority wish to see Newton stay as it is and not develop further, although a substantial minority wish to see further employment opportunities.



Key:

1. As a working community
2. As a retirement community
3. As a commuter community
4. As a tourist centre
5. To stay as it is
6. None of these

Residents' views

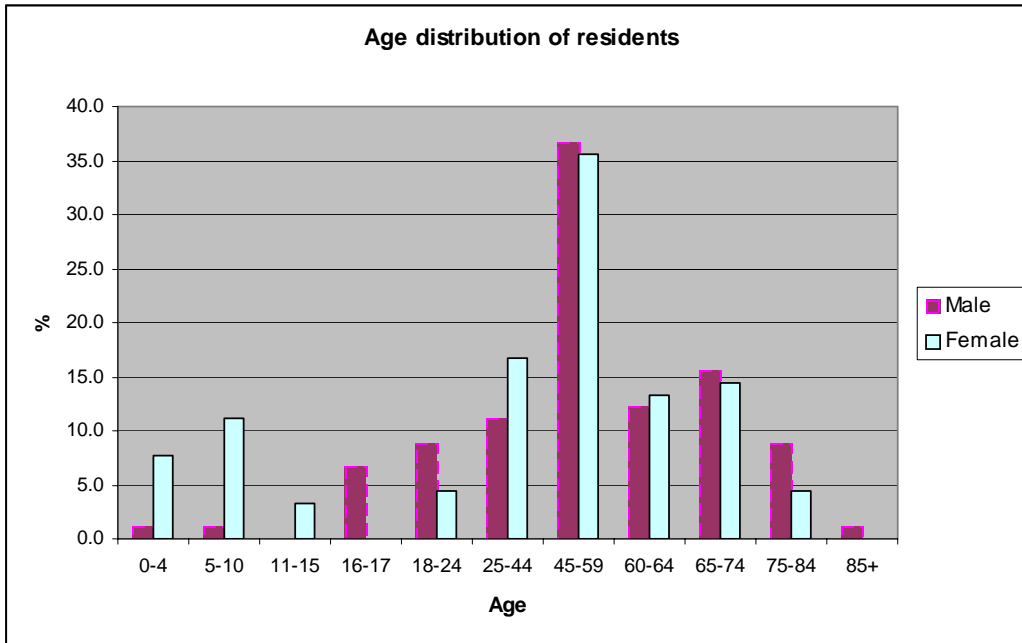
A contentment with the quality of life here

The natural living qualities are what most people come to experience and it is essential to conserve these by supporting the local economy

To conserve the sense of village and hamlets in an agricultural and coastal landscape where wildlife comes first for a change
 More young families and work opportunities

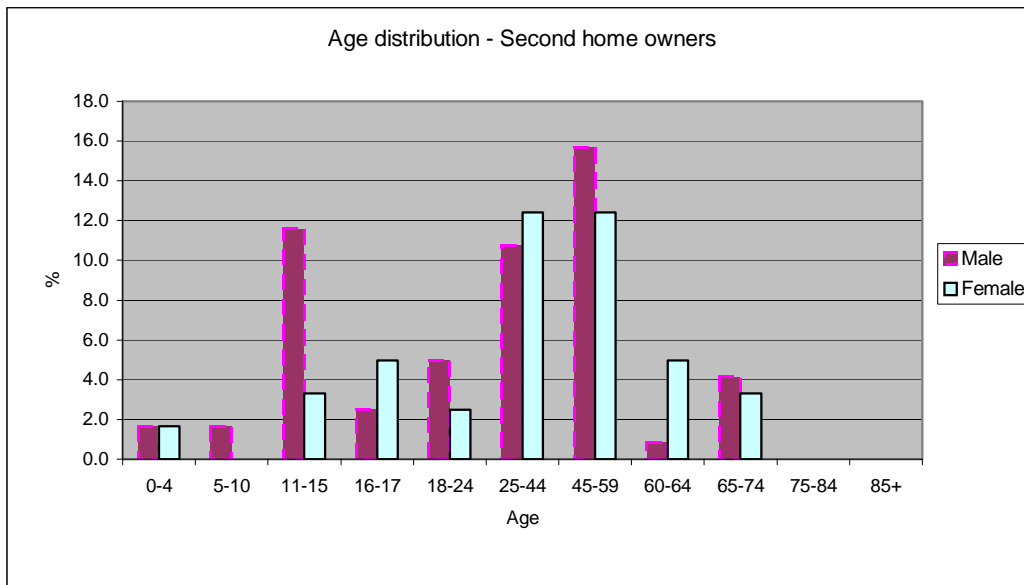
6.1 Demographics

The average household size of permanent residents responding to eth questionnaire is 2.1 people (range = 1-5) with the age distribution of male and female residents shown below. This compares with 2.26 in the 2001 Census.



21% of residents had either lived here a long time or had been born here, and several were from families established three or more generations ago. 29% quoted work such as farming as the reason for living in the Parish, but the large majority (61%) cited the landscape and environment as the main reason for coming to live in the Parish.

Two thirds of second home owners live in the North East. Some have been visiting Newton since childhood and have a strong attachment to the area. The average household size of second homes was 3.4 people (range = 1-6) with the age distribution of male and female occupants shown below.



The data indicates that on average permanent residents have smaller households than second homeowners, fewer children and a slightly older average age of the adults.

At the 2001 Census there were 113 households in the Parish with 242 residents of which 43 were under 16 years (18%). The households included:-

People living in household	Number	% of total
One pensioner	15	8
One person not a pensioner	21	19
More than one pensioner	8	7
Married or co-habiting couple with no children or no dependent children	35	31
Married or co-habiting couple with dependent children	21	19
Lone parent with dependent children	4	4
Lone parent with no dependent children	5	5
Other	3	3

Although Newton Parish has an older than the average population for Alnwick District, on the whole people living in Newton are a healthy lot. According to the 2001 Census with 183 (76%) stating they had good, 42 (17%) fairly good and 17 (7%) not good health. This compares to averages of 67% good, 24% good and 9% not good for the District.

6.2 Housing

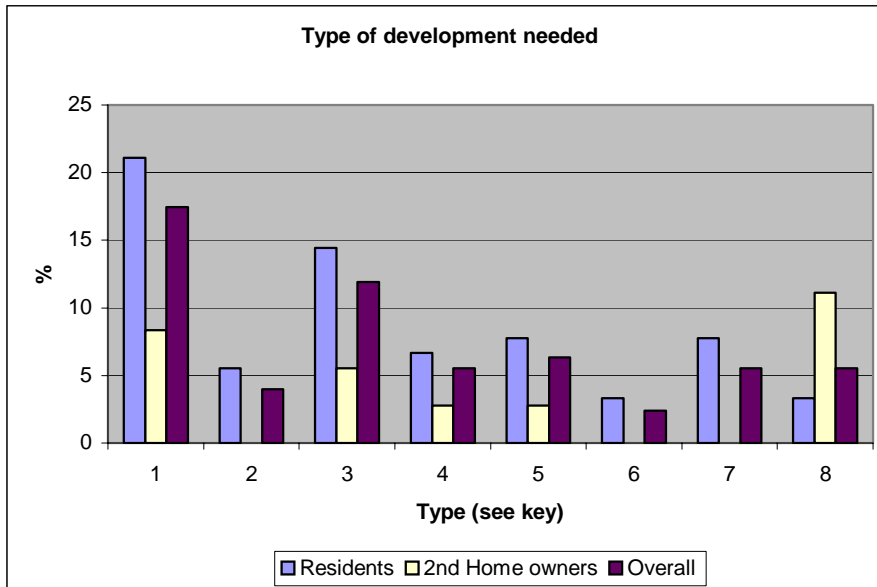
There are 113 households and of the total of 64 (35%) of houses in the Parish are second or holiday homes, this is over 50% in Low Newton. There are 66 detached house or bungalows, 64% semi-detached and 52 terraced houses.

Insert photos of examples

Owned or rented	Number	%
Owned outright	37	33
Owned with mortgage	20	18
Rented from Council	3	3
Rented from housing Association or Social Landlord	3	3
Rented from private landlords/letting agency	36	32
Other rented (employer, relative or friend)	15	13

In the last 10 years the majority of new builds and development of farm buildings in the Parish has been for second homes or holiday accommodation. The price of housing in the Parish has probably doubled in the last five years and most local people have been unable to match prices offered by outsiders wanting a second home especially when small houses have come on the market.

Although only 33% of residents responded to the question of "What kind of development do you think Newton Parish needs?" in the questionnaire – this could be because only 27% of respondent residents were under 44 and 51% rented their houses.



Key:

1. Homes for young people
2. Large family homes
3. Small family homes
4. Homes for people with disabilities
5. Homes for single people
6. None
7. Workshop units
8. Other – please state

22% thought Newton Parish needed homes for young people and 14% small family homes. This would:-

- encourage young people to stay and work here
- encourage young couples to bring up their children in smaller communities
- keep the balance between a working and a retirement community
- keep elderly people retiring from local employment in the community they know and where they can be supported

In Newton Parish the affordable rented housing is at present mainly provided by local landowners and the National Trust. The present ADC policy seems to be working well to enable them to work with these landlords to enable refurbishment and maintenance of affordable rents. Because of the limited new development allowed within Planning Policy all efforts should be made to retain this rented accommodation.

There was the suggestion that houses coming onto the market should be bought and rented by a Housing Association to local permanent residents to prevent any more becoming holiday/second homes.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (10)

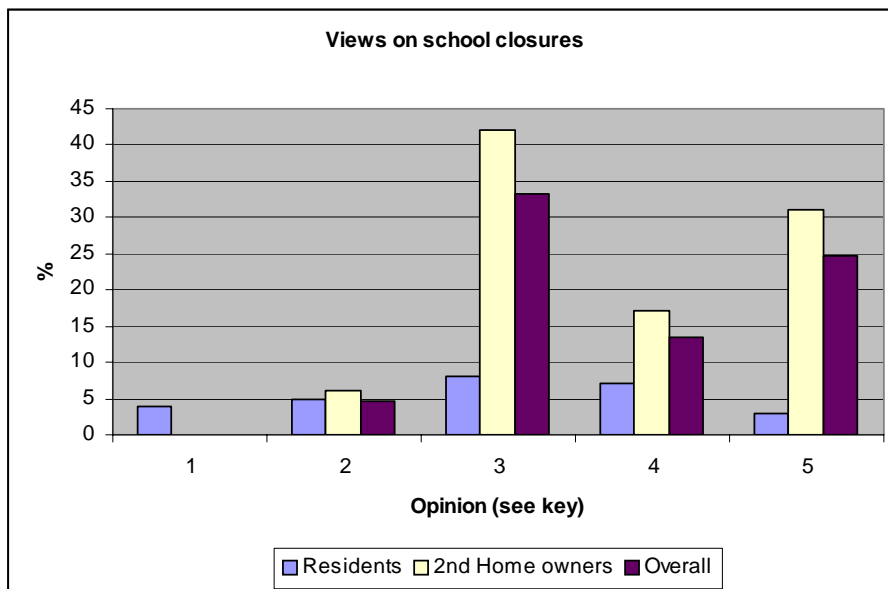
Affordable housing

Maintain present policy of working with local landlords to maintain rented property which can be afforded by people working locally.

Set up some scheme to enable Housing Associations/social enterprises to purchase houses that come up for sale and rent these out to local people.

6.3 Local schools

11% of residents are aged under 18 years with 4 attending play groups, 5 attending nursery, 8 at primary school and 7 at secondary school. The majority of residents and second homeowners disagreed or strongly disagreed with any closure of local schools.



Key:

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Disagree
4. Strongly disagree
5. No opinion

Residents' Views

There should be no closures of local schools serving the Parish

6.4 Refuse Collection

At present green bins for general refuse are collected every two weeks and blue bins for recycled waste are collected alternate weeks. Stickers with information of what can be re-cycled have been delivered to all households by their local Parish Councillor. The majority of residents (72%) are satisfied with the current refuse collection, which aims to encourage recycling and cut down on waste and therefore landfill. A small majority of second homeowners (58%) are not satisfied with the current refuse collection, and in particular, holidaymakers were unsure of the refuse collection system for let cottages.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (9)

Recycling

In relation to policy CD36 in Policy Group C in Appendix A, community composting schemes should be established at settlements in the Parish.

6.5 Dog fouling

Survey respondents were evenly divided as to whether dog fouling was a problem or not. Most residents noted no recent improvements, whereas most second homeowners believed that there had been improvements, except in the dunes. There was an acceptance that enough signs were present and increasing awareness of this issue was favoured over dedicated dog bins being provided.

Residents' Views

There should a continued effort to raise awareness of this issue and encourage individual responsibility of dog owners.

6.6 Village hall

The WI hut has fallen into disrepair but residents' views on the need for a replacement are inconclusive. In the survey 37% of residents and 50% of second home owners thought there was a need for a village hall, and this interest centred on Newton. Many see a village hall as desirable to accommodate a wide range of activities that were suggested including :

Theatre events	Craft fairs	Art classes
Music events	Trade fairs	Crèche
Museum/visitor centre	Dog training classes	Carpet bowls

Tea/coffee shop	Dances	WI
Evening classes	Social functions	Local plays
Playgroup	Coffee mornings	Bring & Buy sales
Snooker	Internet cafe	Small garden centre
School use	Book Club	Table Tennis
Bingo	Whist Drives	Badminton
Sports Centre	Youth club	

When this issue was considered in 1998 during the Parish Appraisal the lack of people to manage a village hall on a sustainable basis was the root problem. St Mary's Church was highlighted as playing a vital role in the community that needs to be maintained and the most practical suggestion was for increasing the community use of the church by the addition of toilet and kitchen facilities. Both the Joiners Arms and the Ship have generously host many community events and their support is valued. The nearby halls at Christon Bank and Embleton are also easily accessible and have excellent facilities. The need is for people to organise events that a significant number of Parishioners will attend, rather than for a hall to hold them in.

Ideas for action
 Organisation of, and support for, an 'Events group' of residents and second homeowners who have expressed an interest in the activities above.
 Greater use of the Church for Parish events would be possible if there was a toilet and washing up facilities.

6.7 Parish events

In the survey, 47% of residents had no opinion on Parish events, but 27% of residents and 39% of second home owners said they would like to see more events. Suggestions are shown below:

Playgroup	Craft fairs	Art classes/exhibitions
May Day celebrations	Fetes/Fairs	Traditional storytelling
Book Club	Dances	Charity fundraising
Regular walks	Church concerts	Community tree planting
Fisherman/harvest supper	Dune management courses	

The activities organised by existing groups that meet at Embleton and Christon Bank are well advertised in 'The Net' each month and The Ship PH regularly offers special evenings and live music. The Church and both pubs can be approached for use as venues for anyone wanting to organise events.

The survey identified an interest in additional recreational facilities as follows:

- Additional seating overlooking the view of Low Newton/Dunstanburgh Castle
- Formation of a youth club
- Introduction of Broadband
- Development of allotments at Risemoor
- Provision of a children's play area in High Newton

Anything to say about sport's facilities??

Ideas for action

Organisation of, and support for, an 'Events group' of residents and second homeowners who have expressed an interest in creating new Parish events.

6.8 Availability of local information

There were few issues regarding the availability of local information, with the bus shelter at High Newton and the Notice Board at Doxford being the main means of communication. The circulation of a monthly newsletter to include local services and additional information regarding the mobile library and shop times was requested by some residents and second homeowners.

Ideas for action

Produce a leaflet to raise awareness of second homeowners on:

- The importance of recycling and taking bottles to the Embleton collection site,
- Giving information to people who let their houses about dates for bin emptying.
- Making arrangements with neighbours to return bins of houses used just for weekends, so that bins are not left by the roadside all week.

Organise a community composting facility to reduce the amount of waste put into the green bins.

Produce a newsletter to include information on local services and events.

7. Working in the Parish

The view that tourism will be the major source of employment should be challenged, given the limited carrying capacity for tourists. There is a diversity of small businesses in the Parish and enterprise should be encouraged. Policy makers should recognise the importance of self employment and identify and attract the opportunities that technology offers for remote working.

The 2001 Census showed that 177 (73%) of the resident population were aged between 16 and 74 years and so were potentially economically active (is this an indication of expected age of retirement?). This was broken down as follows:-

Census headings	Number	% of potentially economically active residents (% for Alnwick District)
Part-time employed	15	8 (13)
Full-time employed	54	31 (36)
Self-employed	43	24 (11)
Looking after home	16	9 (6)
Unemployed	11	6 (4)
Retired	24	14 (18)
Full time student not economically active	6	3 (3)
Permanently sick or disabled	8	5 (5)
Of which long term unemployed	3	2 (1)

In the Parish a quarter of people are self employed this is significantly higher than for the District as a whole. This is consistent with the desire for a high quality of life and commuting a long way to work is not attractive. Examples of businesses being operated within the Parish in 2004 are shown below:-

Bed and breakfast	Holiday cottages
Building	Marine consultancy
Business consultancy	Pest control
Vehicle maintenance	Plumbing
Estate management	Painting & decorating
Fashion, art and gift shop & café	Pub management
Farm management	Saw mill

A number of residents also operate businesses outside the Parish, including a shop, transport business and vehicle maintenance. Until about 25 years ago, most people in Newton were employed in farming and fishing. Today farming is still important and, together with a variety of small and micro-enterprises, is the main stay of working life in rural areas of North Northumberland - this is reflected in Newton Parish. There appears to be scope for enterprises which use information technology to enable more, especially younger, people to work from home.

In 2001, 111 residents were in paid employment as follows:

Census headings	Number	% of total in paid employment
Agriculture, hunting, forestry	20	18
Fishing	0	0
Manufacturing	10	9
Construction	8	7
Wholesale, retail and motor vehicle repairs	16	14
Hotel and catering	6	5
Transport, storage & communications	8	7
Real estate, renting and business activities	11	10
Education	11	10
Health & social work	17	15
Other	4	4

Farming

The Falldon Estate is the main landholding in the Parish with the tenancies of West Falldon Farm, Cold Harbour, the Young's and Brunton Farms being responsible for the management of the agricultural land. Doxford Farm, Link House Farm, Christon Bank Farm, , Doxford Dairy, the National Trust and the Sutherlands own farmland in the Parish. Some of the land in the Parish is rented to farmers living in adjacent Parishes. The National Trust rent some pasture and dune land to Link House Farm and together they manage the animals and hay production on the land to produce a magnificent array of wild flowers in the summer. Cereals, rape seed, cattle and sheep are the main products of agriculture. The farmers maintain the pastureland, stone walls,

hedges and barns, which contribute to the characteristic landscape of Newton Parish.

Farm diversification includes holiday cottages and a farm-based shop and café. These farms and estates, the saw mill and pubs provide local employment opportunities as well as income for the owners. Estate management provides the only source of long-term rented housing in the Parish. The Falldon Estate has especially been supportive of small local businesses such as the Saw Mill by providing work units.

Shops

The shop, Post Office and garage at Embleton, and the shop and Post Office at Christon Bank, were considered by survey respondents to be adequate for the Parish. Mobile shops and services serving most of the Parish include groceries, milk & papers daily and a fish van, butchers and library weekly. They are used by residents especially those who are without transport, or who make a special point of using the services to encourage them to keep going and summer visitors. Both residents and second homeowners highlighted the importance of the travelling shop in the survey, but would like to see it better supported.

It is recognised that if local businesses, and especially the mobile services, are not used they will not be able to continue to serve the Parish. An information leaflet about the services and their visiting times may encourage everyone to take positive action and increase their usage. Second homeowners and people in holiday lets could benefit the local community by using these services and buying locally, rather than bringing groceries and other goods from supermarkets with them.

7.2 Business support

20% of residents and 8% of second homeowners in the survey have run their own businesses in the Parish. The main difficulties that were encountered included high business rates and difficulties in finding local suppliers of basic materials and reliable employees. Some had a feeling of isolation when working from home.

21% of residents and 17% of second homeowners said they would like to set up their own business in the Parish. Factors that make this difficult included lack of buildings and workshop space in older buildings, lack of support in terms of appropriate advice and funding, and too many regulations. One respondent felt that any new workspaces should be in the industrial units in Alnwick, but for many a hoped for benefit of self-employment is not having to spend time commuting.

Although the Parish has a lot of thriving enterprises, many people are home-based (28) and invisible. In the past, home-based businesses and entrepreneurs who value the quality of life more than profit have been largely ignored by policy makers and enterprise development agencies. BizFizz (a new micro/small business encouragement service) is geared to provide support particularly in this area.

The invisibility of some small enterprises also means that many residents, visitors and second homeowners may not be aware of their existence. About half of all survey respondents requested more information about businesses in the Parish and those serving the Parish.

Greater support for local farmers, businesses and Alnwick Farmers' Market were responses to the question "How can Alnwick as our local Market Town could better support the Parish" and relevant to this section. Following the impact of the Foot & Mouth crisis in 2001/2 there were regional policies to create more employment in the area of conservation. Positive action by regional agencies to employ local people to collect information and conserve the natural landscape as described in the actions of The Northumberland Coast AONB Management Plan would be welcomed.

Residents' views

More opportunities and support for appropriate self employment
More work opportunities for people with young families

7.3 Transport

Alnwick centre is 6-12 miles from the Parish and there is no public transport to get there for 9 am and return home after 5.30 pm. Private transport is therefore required to work in Alnwick or even within the Parish.

The average distance people from the Parish travel to a fixed place of work is 23.1 km. Of the 112 economically active people in the Parish, 28 work mainly at home or from home, 12 go to work on foot, 67 in a car or van, 5 are passengers in a car or van.

7.4 Communications

Although computers have enabled more home working, less than 10% of survey respondents are interested in using an Internet access site in the Parish, possibly because those who use the Internet already have a connection. The computer club at Embleton provides good training and services in the area, but it was accessed by only 6% of survey respondents.

The ages of these respondents needs to be analysed out otherwise we may be ignoring the voice of the minority under 19?

The need for Broadband was mentioned by one second home owner.

Despite three telecommunications masts being erected in the Parish, mobile phone reception is very poor and could be a hindrance to some businesses (e.g. builders). There is a need for telecommunications companies to collaborate and share transmission masts rather than erecting duplicate masts in the same location.

7.5 Future development

The Doxford Hall Hotel is expected to open in the near future and may provide some additional local employment. Employment opportunities include private taxis and a link to Alnmouth station, and employment of people in the Parish by ADC to do footpath, road and public toilet maintenance and grass

cutting. Some farms would be capable of providing the Parish with a road gritting service.(ref: Kirklees Council). In addition to providing local employment this would also encourage a feeling of local responsibility and pride. One survey respondent reflected on the economic development of Newton as follows:

“It would be neither practical nor appropriate to attempt by social engineering to recreate Newton as a working village. Fishing is dead and modern agriculture requires a minimum of labour. Any introduction of small manufacturing would bring extra traffic, defeat ADC’s policy of concentrating such developments on its industrial estate and cause irreparable damage to the character of the area as an AONB and part of Heritage Coast. ADC has clear planning guidelines and must be encouraged to adhere to them”

Residents’ Views

It is important to keep a balance between a working community and one dominated by tourism. There should also be a balance of people working locally and commuting and some retired. For long-term sustainability, it is important to develop new work opportunities in the Parish.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (11)

- 1 **Employment** In relation to policies ED4 – ED10, H4, RE21, RE23, and CD4 – CD6 in Policy Group D in Appendix A, applications to develop small businesses and shops in the Parish should be supported, provided noise and traffic are not significantly increased.
- 2 ADC should support local estates in the supply of business premises at redundant farm buildings.
- 3 Applications for new farm buildings that are necessary to increase farm sustainability or employment opportunities should be supported, provided that they do not have negative environmental impacts.
- 4 Planning applications for conversion of redundant barns and outbuildings should be given favourable consideration to use the buildings for new employment opportunities subject to conservation imperatives.
- 5 New developments should incorporate spaces/buildings that can meet future employment needs.
- 6 New commercial signboards should be of a scale and design that do not detract from the Parish character.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (12)

Telecommunications masts

In relation to policies CF13, ED8 and ED9 in Policy Group D in Appendix A, approval for new mobile phone masts should not be given unless operators can show good reason why collaboration with other operators of existing masts is not possible. Operators should be required to demonstrate the benefits of coverage to the local area and environmentally sensitive models should be used.

Ideas for actions

Examples of community actions that would draw on the wide range of skills of residents and second homeowners include :-

- The organisation of a system of tool sharing.
- Negotiating a Parish fuel deal (where a discount is negotiated with one oil supplier for anyone ordering in the Parish plus a contribution to a Community Fund for each delivery)
- Organising a dial-a-ride scheme
- To encourage residents, second homeowners and visitors to use existing services and businesses more a local directory of businesses and mobile services in the Parish could be produced.

8. Transport

The Parish has an extensive network of minor roads serving scattered communities and it is difficult to provide good public transport. Private transport is the only practical form at present and this has created problems for the few households without cars. The narrow roads are a distinctive feature of the Parish but also create hazards and the increasing traffic is seen as a danger to all road users.

In 2002 a Rural Transport Survey was conducted and offered 90% of residents in the parishes of Newton, Embleton, Rennington and Beadnell an opportunity to respond. Interviews were conducted with 151 households and postal questionnaires were completed and returned by 287 households. Of the total of 438 households responding 45 (10%) households were without a car (1 had a motorcycle, 6 had a bicycle)

<p>The people most in need were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Households without a car • people living alone • elderly people (may have car but would like alternative) • youngsters wanting evening transport 	<p>for:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shopping/personal business in Alnwick • visits to hospital/surgery – Embleton, Alnwick, Wansbeck • visits to relatives in hospital • education • leisure
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The key recommendations were:

1. **The current main bus service is a valuable asset to the local community. Any initiatives must ensure that this core provision is not undermined**
2. **A key issue is the lack of regular bus services to settlements off the main bus route. Newton, Rennington, Rock, Christon Bank. West Fleetham. To address this we have suggested a demand responsive mini bus/"wigglybus" scheme (winding its way through the area) which feeds into the main bus route. We advocate a small-scale operation which can be expanded if it proves successful. An alternative could be a careful adaptation of the existing bus service.**
3. **A community transport scheme is a secondary recommendation. Its main aim should be for particular community groups, but it should be accompanied by good publicity that enables anyone in the community to feel able to use the service.**
4. **Improvements to the provision of bus service information. We have evidence in rural areas elsewhere in the country that bus usage increases when time tables have been door dropped along the route and/or bus stop information is well maintained.**

Newton Parish Council discussed the following proposed actions to take this forward together with other parishes :-

- meet with bus service providers to discuss recommendations 1,2 & 4
 - discuss with Embleton Guides the use of the mini bus for a community transport scheme
 - consider needs that would arise if the mobile shop ceases to come to Newton 5 days a week
 - prepare a transport grant application as appropriate

However no further action was taken due to a lack of interest by residents in all the Parishes to participate.

The 2001 Census cites 174 cars and vans being owned by the 113 households in Newton Parish and 7 (6%) households did not own a vehicle.

Car or van ownership	Number of households	%
0	7	6
1	59	52
2	37	33
3	7	6
4 or more	3	3

10% of residents responding to Questionnaire in 2004 use public transport daily, often or sometimes. However with the higher than average age of eth population in this Parish it is likely that many more will become dependent on public transport in the

future. From the responses to the question “What would encourage you to use public transport?” – a wigglybus would answer most of these points.

8.1 Roads and pathways

Insert map showing roads in Parish

The Parish has a network of narrow twisting minor roads, mostly without footpaths, that connect farms, hamlets and the settlements. Narrow roads are a distinctive feature of the Parish. The standard estate road width recommended by County Highways engineers is 5.3m (14.5 feet). There is insufficient surface space for car manoeuvring on roads in the Parish, but the release of land for road widening should be made only with great reluctance if the Parish wishes to reduce the impact on wide barren impermeable spaces. The visual intrusion of the motorcar is not restricted to its physical presence, but also the parking signage and kerbing to control and contain it. The verge detail and requirement for lighting and pavements all arise from highway safety recommendations developed for the urban environment and these are inappropriate for the rural setting of Newton.

From the A1 the Parish is approached on the B6347 and just before the turning to Christon Bank is a small road leading to Doxford Farm. Cold Harbour Farm is reached off the B6347 before it goes through Christon Bank, which is in the adjoining parish of Embleton. At the West Fallodon junction a straight road (the C69) leads past Fallodon Mill to a ‘T’ junction where the narrow road to the left (marked ‘unsuitable for heavy vehicles’) leads past the entrance to Doxford Hall, through Doxford towards the A1. The ‘T’ junction the road to the right leads under the main east coast railway line to Brunton. The B6347 becomes the B1340 and leads to the Newtons. From the B1340, a cul-de-sac road takes a triple bend to reveal the triangular village of High Newton, set around a village green, which the road bi-sects. From here, there are four further cul-de-sacs:

1. A single-track road, with passing places leads to Links House Farm settlement, Herdsman’s Place, and a public car park set behind the dunes of Beadnell Bay.
2. Leading off the first cul-de-sac is a private road to High Newton Farm settlement. This also provides a public right of way between fields to Football Hole, a sandy bay.
3. The road to Low Newton leaves High Newton by a sharp bend, and passes through pastureland past Watch House and the village Church, before cresting a ridge. There is a public car park just below the crest of the hill, before the road leads down to The Square in Low Newton, where public parking is prohibited. .
4. A fourth cul-de-sac leads behind The Square, to a group of houses converted from a granary and farm buildings. This lane becomes a footpath, leading to the Boat Park, Risemoor Cottage, and the bird observation hides overlooking Newton Pool. It continues to wooden holiday bungalows, set among the dunes, and beyond, to Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Course.

A sandy track leads from Newton Links Farm to the huge expanse of sandy beach stretching to Beadnell 4.8 km (3 miles) to the north. A footpath from here leads over the headland to Football Hole and thence to St. Mary’s Haven.

There are a number of danger spots at junctions and bends on roads in the Parish. Cutting the grass verges further back from junctions would help reduce the dangers and signage at others may alert drivers to potential hazards

Insert map of danger spots here

Dangerous roads that were identified by residents include:

- West Fallodon Farm where 5 roads/field entrances converge and the B road should have priority
- The road (C71) running past Doxford Hall is very narrow all along its length and it has several dangerous bends
- Reduced traffic speeds on the West Fallodon to Chathill road as cars are too fast to stop if a vehicle is leaving the cottages or farm entrance.
- The two sharp corners past the entrance to the Caravan site at High Newton are taken too fast by drivers. A 30 mph speed restriction is required to start from before the entrance to the caravan site because there is no footpath and walkers from the caravan site have no place to go if vehicles meet.
- Two ash trees are in a dangerous condition at the T-junction on the B1339 near Newton Barns
- Improved signage is required at the 90° bends at Brunton Airfield and Doxford Hall Road
- Visibility when emerging from Fallodon onto the Christobn Bank road is limited.
- Road markings are not clearly visible at many junctions.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (13)

Roads and road safety

1. In relation to policy T13 and T14 in Policy Group E in Appendix A, there should be no additional roads constructed in the Parish. Existing cul-de-sac roads are a distinctive feature of the Parish and these should not be connected or made into through routes.
2. Narrow roads in the Parish are an essential component of the Parish character. The absence of pavements and kerbstones is characteristic of the Parish and any new developments should reflect this.
3. The Parish Council should liaise with NCC Highways Department and ADC to introduce safety measures and reduce dangers on roads identified in the text and reduce the speed of traffic.
4. The Parish Council should liaise with ADC and NCC Highways Department to introduce measures to make walking and cycling safer through Doxford village, from Burnhouses to Fallodon, from Newton to Christon Bank and along the coast road to Embleton

Insert map showing footpaths and bridleways?

96% of residents and second home owners regularly walk, ride or cycle in the Parish. For walkers, there is the coastal footpath and many marked footpaths across fields. The footpath across the field from High Newton to a point near the church cuts off a corner of the road to Low Newton and is an ancient route used by fishermen to their boats in the Haven. 90% of residents and second home owners use the countryside for recreation and access, and most people reported that access and maintenance of paths and signs was good. 49% considered paths to be mostly good and 10% rated them as 'excellent'. The exceptions are the paths from High Newton to Embleton, and from High Newton to Newton Barns. More generally, there was concern about the condition of paths over farmland, which were sometimes blocked and some did not correspond with Ordnance Survey maps.

Most people felt safe walking, but many survey respondents noted the dangers of fast traffic on the narrow winding roads in the Parish. Concern was also expressed about 'random' shooting over public footpaths, rendering them inaccessible at weekends.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (14) Paths, cycle ways and bridleways

1. In relation to policies T6, TR7, TT14 and CF6 – CF8 in Policy Group E in Appendix A, footpaths contribute significantly to Newton's character and the existing network of paths should be maintained in any future developments.
2. New developments should avoid roadside pavements where possible, but if essential, they could be constructed from tarmac. Paver bricks, concrete or reconstituted stone are not characteristic of the Parish and should be avoided.

Ideas for action

- Identify sub-standard access gates and co-ordinate improvements to these
- Liaise with farmers to improve paths over farmland, particularly between Newton and Embleton Prow
- Liaise with police to enforce by-laws governing shooting near to footpaths.

8.1.1 Verges and pavements

There was agreement that mowing at junctions is essential but opinion is divided about grass cutting of roadside verges. Whereas some residents would like to see regularly trimmed roadsides, others see the benefits to wildlife in allowing the vegetation to grow through most of the season.. It was widely felt that damage to verges by vehicles was a problem.

8.1.1 Road surfaces and markings

The survey revealed that residents consider that the road network cannot support the increasing numbers of vehicles that visitors bring to the area. 66% of residents consider that minor roads receive insufficient maintenance by the NCC Highways Department, and potholes and crumbling road edges have proliferated. There is also concern over the damage caused by larger commercial vehicles to road surfaces and verges.

Ideas for action

- Awareness is raised of visitors in cars about the importance of safe and thoughtful parking.
- Liaise with NCC Highways Department and ADC to improve the standards of road maintenance in the Parish.
- For businesses and households in the Parish to request suppliers to use appropriate sized vehicles appropriate to the narrow road and accesses.

8.1.2 Street furniture and street lighting

Where possible more than one sign should be fixed onto the same pole. All street lighting should be downward casting, non-light polluting, and not be left on all night.

8.2 Levels of traffic

Levels of traffic on Parish roads are generally low, except during the summer when visitor numbers increase. Residents expressed concern over the speed of traffic on narrow roads without footpaths, some of which have blind bends. Specific roads that are considered dangerous for walkers and cyclists include:

- The road through Doxford village and along the straight road from Burnhouses to Fallodon.
- The road junction east of Christon Bank
- The blind bend out of Newton
- The coast road to Embleton
- The main road from Newton to Christon Bank

Many second home owners enjoy cycling but stated "it is very dangerous cycling because cars travel too fast", "roads are narrow and there are many blind bends".

Residents views

It is not safe cycling because of the speed of cars

8.3 Parking

Car parking is an issue that raised strong concerns. Official car parking is limited to car parks at Low Newton with spaces for 50 cars and Link House Farm with spaces for ? cars. There are no marked bays and people park sensibly. The car parks are in a natural state.

The majority view is that this level of parking should remain without further increases as a means of controlling visitor numbers. However, illegal roadside parking and damage to soft verges takes place throughout the summer and was highlighted as a major concern of residents. Specific problems were identified at the following locations:

- The Square and turning point at Low Newton
- Near to the coast
- The Green at High Newton
- Verges at Low Newton
- Verge form the Church to High Newton
- Back Lane leading to the boat park
- Boatman's Place

The cost of parking was criticised by residents and 67% supported the introduction of some form of parking permit for residents for the parish car park. (A full day's parking cost is the only option – even for a 30 minute stroll!)

Residents' Views

At summer Bank Holidays visitors park along the roadside – but this is an acceptable overflow on these occasions. We would welcome more enforcement of existing parking regulations at peak times - particularly against cars parking in the turning point, on pavements and verges in Low Newton and along the road to Link House. The turning point at Low Newton needs to be more clearly marked to prevent parking. Cars are frequently parked in this area which is vital for the access of emergency services .

Supplementary Planning Guidance (16)

Car parking

1. In relation to policies T2, TT5 and TT12 in Policy Group E in Appendix A, any new developments should include off-road car parking provision.
2. No additional car parks should be constructed in High Newton, Low Newton or along the coast.

Ideas for action

- ADC and the police are encouraged to more rigorously enforce parking regulations and remove illegally parked vehicles during busy summer months.

8.4 Public transport

The provision of public transport in the Parish is problematic due to the dispersed and isolated nature of most of the settlements. Bus routes 401 and 501 only call at High Newton. 80% of residents have 'rarely' or 'never' used public transport. Most people have private transport in order to live in the Parish and this has driven down the demand for public transport, making it more difficult for those who rely on buses. 60% of residents in the survey considered that there is a need for assisted transport in the Parish (e.g. visits to hospitals, doctors, dentists), and given the age profile of residents this demand is likely to increase in future years.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (17)

Public transport

In relation to policy T3 in Policy Group E in Appendix A support should be given to provision of public transport from settlements in the Parish to Alnwick, Alnmouth station and Wansbeck Hospital.

Ideas for action

For people in the Parish to take forward the proposals resulting from the Transport Survey.