

**Parking**

Measures to reduce parking outside the school and parking on pavements and grass verges elsewhere, will be investigated. The extension of walking-bus schemes in the village will be discussed with parents and teachers.

**Lighting**

Areas of poor lighting in the village will be identified and solutions sought. One such area is between Dukes Cottages and the Welfare Hall.

**Neighbourhood Watch**

Local groups, in liaison with the Community Police, will be encouraged to strengthen current Neighbourhood Watch schemes and establish new ones where appropriate.

**Police Presence**

The Police Authority will be lobbied to increase the visibility of community officers within the village.

**BUSINESS**

The proposed extension of the A197 to the A1 trunk road will be strongly supported for the future of both the village and the wider community of South East Northumberland.



**HOUSING**

Several people mentioned the lack of a sheltered housing development in the village. An appraisal regarding needs and benefits, for presentation to the appropriate authorities, will be developed.

**NEW GROUP**

It is proposed that a new group should be established to help implement the ideas and suggestions contained in this Plan. It will need to be properly constituted in order to be able to obtain funding which is not available to the Parish Council. It should be welcoming, open and flexible and be able to establish subgroups reflecting various specific interests. The new group will be created following a public meeting and with the support of as many local residents as possible.



*“The road is much quieter since the bypass opened. This is no longer a pit village we are now town and country”*



# PEGSWOOD VILLAGE PLAN

*“A better place in which to live”*

## Executive Summary

**Pegswood Village Plan** has been prepared by a Steering Group of volunteers in close co-operation with Pegswood Parish Council. A copy of the full Plan, together with copies of the questionnaires, the analysis of the questionnaires and a summary of all short, medium and long term actions, may be obtained from Project House, the Welfare and the Parish Council's offices in the Uniun Building.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Early in April 2008, Pegswood Parish Council ([www.parish-council.com/Pegswood](http://www.parish-council.com/Pegswood)) hosted an initial meeting that proposed an independent group from the village to develop a Village Plan. The group met several times, surveyed all houses and businesses, held a public meeting (attended by a wide range of age groups) and, using that information, set out an Action Plan for the future.

There was remarkable consensus from the villagers on the pleasures of, and benefits to, living in the village; its lovely setting, good transport links and friendly people. There was also strong agreement on the issues that concerned them; litter, dog-fouling and anti-social behaviour.

Some issues are already being addressed by individuals or small groups. Others can be achieved in the future, and some will need the direction and support of other bodies (e.g. Pegswood Parish Council, the private owners of derelict or shuttered buildings).

It is hoped that a new "action group" can be formalised which can use its independent status to undertake projects to benefit the community. The action group will seek to become constituted as this allows bids for funding streams that are not always available to public bodies.

Whilst many actions have been identified, this is a working document and priorities will need to be established and developed over time. Work will be project-based and progress will be reported on an internet-based blog site (<http://pegswoodvp.blogspot.com/>).

Pegswood Parish Council has supported and funded the work of the group through grant aid provided by DEFRA and administered by Community Action Northumberland. Much of the work has been carried out by some very enthusiastic volunteers, and Pegswood Parish Council will support them in their spending plans for the future.

It is recognised that the plan will not meet everyone's needs or, indeed, expectations as there will be a need to integrate with other plans affecting the area. The action group will work as hard as it can to make Pegswood "A better place in which to live".

Already, there has been success in gaining funding, through the local Brownie group, for summer planting for beds and tubs to enhance the appearance of the village.

### SUMMARY OF VILLAGE PLAN ACTIONS

A summary of all short, medium and long term actions that have been derived from consultations and the Village Plan has been drawn up, and is available on request from the Project House. The responsibility for addressing these actions lies with the new action group.

Further information and analysis of the questionnaires is also available from the Project House.



## PEGSWOOD FUTURE

### THE ENVIRONMENT

#### **Parking Provision outside the Co-op**

The County Council has completed the widening of the road and the provision of new parking bays. The appropriate parking of vehicles will need to be encouraged.

#### **General untidiness, litter and dog fouling**

A Village Tidy-Up Day could be introduced on an annual or even a quarterly basis. Substantial help is available from the County Council for such events.

#### **Planting of flowers/shrubs**

Funding was obtained from the Parish Council for the village Brownie Pack to plant flowers and shrubs along the main road through the village earlier in 2009. Maintenance of flower and shrub beds is a shared responsibility between the County Council, the Parish Council and Castle Morpeth Housing Association. More co-ordination between these public bodies and community organisations in the village is needed to ensure that the hard work of groups like the Brownies is not wasted.

#### **Footpaths and Bridleways**

There are many footpaths and bridleways in the area most of which are public rights of way. The production of a map, identifying these footpaths and bridleways, throughout the Parish Council area, for distribution through the Parish website, village blog and local venues would be a valuable addition to the information about the area. Ensuring that they are accessible and litter free will be an ongoing task.

#### **Seating**

The provision of seating is a basic function of parish councils. Requests for additional seating in the village are considered carefully

and have always been funded from the annual precept. New and existing seating should have paved areas in front, whenever possible.

#### **Bus Shelters**

The Parish Council has a maintenance contract for the upkeep of the bus shelters. Additional cleaning and repairs are undertaken as necessary and the Council is very keen to receive reports of damage, vandalism and litter.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

#### **Village newsletters**

The provision of a single village newsletter, which could include information from several community sources, could be more efficient, easier to deliver and cost less than the current variety of newsletters. This idea should be developed by the various community organisations in the village.

#### **Village Directory**

A village directory of local businesses, community organisations, facilities and specialist clubs would very valuable to the Parish Council, the Morpeth District Community Forum and other local organisations. It should be updated on a regular basis.



## PEGSWOOD FUTURE

### SPORT AND LEISURE

#### **New Fire Station**

The construction of a new fire station is underway at the eastern edge of the village and is expected to be completed in the middle of 2010. The Fire and Rescue Service is very interested in becoming involved in the life of the village, particular as far as young people are concerned. Joint use of the Welfare Park is being discussed.

#### **Welfare Park**

The construction of a new Pavilion is planned for the first half of 2010, funded by Northumberland County Council. The demolition and clearance of the old, dilapidated pavilion will follow. Discussions concerning the transfer of the Welfare Park, to the Parish Council, are underway. A long term development plan for the Park will be prepared.

#### **Colliers Hill**

The building of a new housing estate has commenced in the area below this former mining feature. Better utilisation of this open space will be considered for the longer term.



### YOUNG PEOPLE'S FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

#### **Youth Forum**

The establishment of a Youth Forum will help the community to look at facilities and activities for young people in Pegswood, and consider their future needs and requirements.

#### **Skateboard Park**

A petition has been presented to the Parish Council for the construction of a skateboard park in the village. A feasibility study and the identification of possible sources of funding will be pursued in 2010.



#### **Drop in/"Chill out" Facilities**

The views and ideas of local young people about such facilities will be sought early next year.



### CRIME AND SAFETY

#### **Traffic calming measures**

The extension of the 20 mph limits to all housing estates in Pegswood will be investigated.

#### **CCTV**

Consideration of introducing CCTV in parts of the village will be discussed with the police, community representatives and residents.