



# KYLOE PARISH NEWS

October 2020

## Parish Council Meetings



Lack of venues and restrictions governing meetings meant your Council was unable to meet physically between its last meeting in February and the beginning of September, when an al fresco session was held in Fenwick Village, with the Chair and Clerk decorously sheltering in a drop-sided horse box – clean straw thoughtfully provided – whilst other members were ranged in a semi-circle on garden chairs, umbrellas at the ready, but fortunately not needed.

The Annual Meeting has been postponed, with existing office bearers confirmed for a further year.

Even when the Council is unable to meet formally, councillors are kept informed about issues of concern. Members of the public are welcome to raise matters they wish considered by contacting our Clerk, Sheila Henderson.

**Newsletters:** We try to ensure every household receives a copy of this Newsletter as it appears – normally three times a year. As you will appreciate, this year has hardly been ‘normal’, so our apologies for the break in distribution. Please let us know of any topics which you feel should be covered in future. Previous editions are on the **Parish Website:**

[www.northumberlandparishes.uk/kyloe](http://www.northumberlandparishes.uk/kyloe)

The website lists planning applications and decisions, as we receive them, as well as Council minutes, and, in normal times, advance notice of its meetings, as well as other items of possible local interest. Your suggestions for any improvements are always welcome.

**Fenwick:** Locating a potential site for a **Bottle Bank** in the Village has proved difficult but the possibility of one at West Mains is being progressed.



**Enforcement Action** relating to a holiday property in Fenwick Village, where late night activities associated with a hot tub on the front patio have been causing local disturbances, is ongoing with the situation being actively monitored.

**Slow signage** is to be provided on the B6353 between West Kyloe and Kyloe Lodge, and before the crossroads between the Lodge and Lowick.





**Berrington Footpaths:** During lockdown more people have been using rights of way in this area. The paths are generally well defined where they cross arable land, but very much more difficult to follow because of undergrowth where they run through wooded areas and a lack of bridges over streams. We have had very useful contact with the Area Countryside Team to enlist their help in ensuring these local walks are as accessible as possible to local residents. Whilst the Team has limited resources, they will give what help they can.

As undergrowth dies back, we hope to walk the paths and list issues which need attention. Please let Colin Wakeling know of any places where obstacles have made your own access difficult and help him with this survey.



**Beal Foreshore Roadside Parking** by the closed car park at the start of the Causeway to Holy Island is a matter of concern. We have contacted the Highways Planning Team who have

asked the County's Enforcement Officers to monitor the area. They have also been checking with their Licensing colleagues on the status of the ice cream van which may trade in the area when the tide cuts off the Island. Photographs have been forwarded, and Borders Buses, who operate the 477 service, have also reported that their drivers have experienced difficulties in the area. With a generally welcome increase in visitor numbers to the area, the County are aware of the overall need to improve visitor infrastructure – it is anticipated that the Beal problem will be addressed as part of this exercise. In the meantime, if you witness thoughtless parking in the area, please let us know, with as much detail as you can, including photographs if possible. The more the merrier!

**AONB Affordable Housing:** At the Examination of the County's Local Plan, the Inspector asked the Authority to justify its proposed lower threshold for affordable housing contributions from residential developments in the area. Because of difficulties in viability testing smaller scale schemes, the County has withdrawn its proposal, while still maintaining that its aim was reasonable.



Your Council considered the issue and submitted a note to the Inspector regretting the County's decision. It "believes there remains a real need to ensure a supply of affordable housing within the area, and it is thus reasonable and proportionate to expect even smaller scale developments, unless they are principally affordable, to make a contribution to ensuring its continued availability. In the absence of any such provision, there remains the very real possibility that smaller developments will cumulatively lead to imbalanced, and ultimately atrophied communities in the coastal area."

## Planning White Paper: Planning for the Future

Planning for the Future is the title of a government consultation running until 29<sup>th</sup> October on England's planning system. The document can be accessed at: [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future).

It is claimed that the proposals will simplify the planning process through the identification in Local Plans of three types of locations: **growth areas** suitable for substantial development; **renewal areas** suitable for development & **protected areas** such as Green Belt and open countryside. Once these are determined in Local Plans, the scope for **community or neighbourhood representation** in determining individual developments is severely restricted.

*It should be noted that Northumberland's proposed Local Plan is still undergoing public examination. If it is eventually adopted only some aspects might transfer to any new framework. A lot of work would still be needed to make it fit.*

For some forms of development **design codes** would apply – these must be clear, yet without prescription, and prepared locally with community involvement.

**Public involvement in setting Local Plans and design codes would be absolutely crucial to determining future development in the area.**

**Neighbourhood Plans** are likely to carry more weight. *Norham & Islandshire's efforts to create a plan for this area have been impacted by the disruption caused by the Pandemic but are still making very slow progress.*

It is likely that Northumberland would be expected to offer more **house building** sites. *However, it is worth noting that developers have a reputation for 'land banking'. The County currently has more than 15,000 permissions granted on which development has not yet commenced. It has been estimated that permissions for more than a million homes which have not yet been built have been granted over the past five years.*

Any new system seems likely to encourage **permitted development** based approaches. *In their operation these have attracted considerable criticism, especially in notorious cases involving the conversion of office or workshop space for residential purposes. The UK apparently already has the worst housing space standards of any country in Europe.*

The proposals would also strengthen **enforcement** powers; reform **developer contributions** by the introduction of a developer levy and have more of the **costs** of operating the system funded by the beneficiaries of planning gain.



**The Fenwick Defibrillator** has fortunately not needed to be used yet but remains a potential life saver for visitors and residents alike. To supplement the bank of trained users we would like to arrange another training session when conditions permit. If you would be interested, please pass your details to our Clerk, Sheila Henderson.

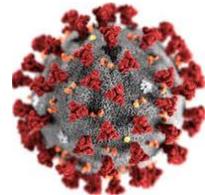
**Sgt William Allan, VC:** After a lull in activity, it is pleasing that Monmouth Civic Society, with the active backing of their local MP, is actively considering erecting a plaque on the site of the house where 'our' VC, then a musketry instructor to local Volunteers, died in 1890, during the 1889-1890 'Asiatic / Russian' 'Flu Pandemic. Because of redevelopment of the area, and re-numbering of buildings, they are still checking where it might best be sited, but it would be good to see him get some recognition at last.



Police and Crime Commissioner  
**Northumbria**

**Police & Crime Commissioners** have a duty to produce a Police & Crime Plan which sets out the strategic priorities, aims and objectives for local police forces. Covid restrictions prevent face-to-face meetings so, to inform the Plan-making process, our Commissioner is asking you to complete an online survey by 27<sup>th</sup> November which can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/PCPCon2020>

**Covid-19 in Northumberland:** The County's website carries the latest news of the impact of the Virus on the County. Its **Coronavirus Information Hub** contains a statistical dashboard which is updated daily at noon:



[www.northumberland.gov.uk/COVID-19-in-Northumberland.aspx](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/COVID-19-in-Northumberland.aspx)



### Local Support

**Berwick Food Bank:** William Elder Building,  
BERWICK: 01289-303366

**Wooler Food Bank:** Cheviot Centre, WOOLER: 01668-282406

**Do you wish you could use a computer and get on-line to your relatives and friends or access services online?**

If you would be interested in learning how to use the technology, in simple and easy lessons, please let Jane Pannell know. There's no commitment at this stage since she's exploring what could be arranged if there is enough demand.

### Contacts

**Clerk: Sheila Henderson:** 4 West Kyoel Farm Cottages, Beal,  
Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 2PG: [4westkyloe@gmail.com](mailto:4westkyloe@gmail.com)

**Newsletter: Colin Wakeling:** [colin@itswakeling.com](mailto:colin@itswakeling.com)

**Keeping Lowick & District Connected:**

Jane Pannell: 01289-388321: [jane.pannell51@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.pannell51@btinternet.com)