



KYLOE PARISH NEWS

March 2023

THE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on
Tuesday, 2nd May 2023 starting at **7 p.m.**

in

Lowick Village Hall

to consider the Chairman's Report, and Statement of Accounts, and elect officers for the coming year.

It will be followed by a regular meeting of the Council.

Members of the public are welcome at this, or any other, meeting of the Council, but if you want to address the Council it would be helpful if you could let our Clerk, Sheila Henderson, know beforehand.

North East Devolution Deal Consultation

Devolution: A 'deal' has been agreed in principle between the leaders and elected mayor of the seven North East councils which the Government has indicated it is 'minded' to approve. The proposed new authority, covering an area with 2m inhabitants, would have power to make decisions on matters such as transport, skills, housing, finance and economic development. The full document is 48 pages long and is available on the County's website.

The proposal includes an investment fund of £1.4bn (£48m a year over 30 years) covering the whole Region to support inclusive economic growth and support regeneration; an indicative budget of £1.8bn (£60m a year) for adult education and skills; a package of investment for transport, housing and regeneration. It is hoped that such investment will create jobs and training and 'leverage' private sector investment. Some of this may include amounts already announced as part of other programmes. The 'deal' is conditional on the creation of a 'mayoral authority' to cover the whole region, with a directly elected mayor at its head.

A consultation exercise – which does not include a local referendum – **lasts until 23rd March**. The period is short – the 'deal' was agreed at the end of last year, but, as a Parish Council, we only received notification in mid-February.

Please complete the on-line consultation form and make your views known:

www.northumberland.gov.uk/About/North-East-Devolution-Consultation

Contacts

Clerk: Sheila Henderson: 4 West Kyloe Farm Cottages, Beal, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 2PG: 4westkyloe@gmail.com

Newsletter: Colin Wakeling: colin@itswakeling.com

Parish Council website: www.northumberlandparishes.uk/kyloe



A Defibrillator is now installed and operational, by the main entrance to the shop at Lindisfarne Services, Beal, beside the A1. We are very grateful to Penny Petroleum, who operate the site, for their support. A grant arranged through the Community Foundation from the FB & PFB Lough Fund enabled the project to go ahead.

Electric Vehicle Charging Point: The Parish Council has submitted a bid for a public EV Charging Point for up to 4 vehicles to be installed in Fenwick Village, opposite the former Village Hall / Guru Coffee Shop, on County Council owned land. A number of properties in the village do not have access to overnight off-street parking, while visitors to the area and service providers may well need top-up charges during the day.



There is no guarantee that the application will be successful. Earlier enquiries suggested Scottish Power believed their network would need upgrading to support such an installation.

Green Spaces: Work on developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Norham & Islandshire's parishes has resumed after halting during the Pandemic. The National Planning Policy Framework allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them.



Designation of a **Local Green Space** assumes it is:

- reasonably close to the community designating it;
- regarded as special and is of particular local significance because of, for example, its beauty, historical significance, recreational value, tranquillity, richness of its wildlife;
- local in character rather than an extensive tract of land.

An area designated as an LGS does not have to be in public ownership, but land-owners have to be made aware of an intention to designate at an early stage in the process. The Parish Council is considering if any areas in the Parish should be suggested for designation. **Are there any areas you consider should be included?** Further information from Colin Wakeling: colin@itswakeling.com



Fenwick Street Lighting: After many years of persistent application by the Parish Council, it appears that, subject to budgetary constraints, extension of the street lighting in Fenwick to the A1, is included in the County's Local Transport Plan for 2023-4. Further lobbying is being undertaken to improve safety and lighting at the junction itself.

The Parish Council Precept for the coming year has been increased from £1,000 to a total of £1,100 – the first such increase for some years. The additional funding should enable the Parish Council to continue its work for some years ahead.





Potholes are an ever-present feature on local roads – recent weather has aided their proliferation. Northumberland CC will repair road damage considered a serious risk to road users within 24 hours; where the risk is considered less serious repairs will take 14 to 28 days. The Council carries out regular inspections, but public reporting is also vital if roads are to be maintained effectively. If you are concerned about any local potholes, don't just moan, report them online at: www.online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal



A range of **roadworks** are taking place in and around the A1 in the coming months; the main ones being overnight until June between West Mains and Fenwick when National Highways are undertaking drainage works on the A1. Traffic lights and local diversions for access will be in place.

Please Note: The A1 is the responsibility of National Highways: www.nationalhighways.co.uk

Footpaths: A Temporary Closure Order and Diversion, affecting the **Coastal Path** where it crosses the East Coast Mainline at Fenham Hill, because of safety concerns raised by NetworkRail, was reluctantly agreed by the County pending mitigation work.



The initial closure order has expired and a further temporary one has been agreed, until August, with NetworkRail intending completion of the work – installation of gates and changes to signage – by Easter, but there could be 'slippage' in this timescale. Thereafter NetworkRail intend to carry out further surveys into use of the crossing and its phone.

Crossing an increasingly fast and busy mainline in safety is important; when the crossing reopens, please follow any advice / instructions.

Please report any problems you encounter using local Rights of Way to the County using their online reporting form and send us a note identifying the issue.

Voter Identification: From May voters in England will need to show an acceptable form of **photographic identification** to vote at a polling station in local elections, by-elections, and general elections (from October). **Acceptable forms** of ID include passports, driving licences, blue badges and older / disabled persons bus passes. Only one form will have to be shown – it must be an original not a photocopy, but can be out of date as long as the photo still resembles you. The name on the ID should be the same as that used when registering to vote. If you do not have an acceptable form of ID you should apply for a **Voter Authorisation Certificate**.



Further details: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/VoterID



Wooler U3A has a varied programme of activities catering for a wide range of interests – details at: www.u3asites.org.uk/wooler

Alternative Fuel Payments (£200) should have gone to residents who are not on the mains gas grid and who rely on alternative heating fuels. This is paid via electricity suppliers directly into bank accounts or as a credit on bills – on request this can then be transferred to bank accounts.



Moving to BT Digital Voice Last year BT paused the rollout of **Digital Voice** because of concerns, highlighted by last winter's storms, that the system relied on domestic power supplies, so in the event of a power cut, phone lines were cut as well as mains powered base stations – traditional 'copper' phone lines rely on power from local exchanges, which is independently backed up. The pause was to allow robust back-up measures to be put in place – something that BT had largely neglected.

BT intends to restart its Digital Voice roll-out this spring. It should have solutions in place to give customers confidence in their home phone service, including:

- Hybrid phones that can switch to a mobile network and have an in-built, long-lasting battery;
- The option of longer-lasting battery back-up units;
- Providing in-home 'mobile landlines' for people without broadband;
- Investment to address so-called mobile 'not spots';
- Engaging proactively with related industries, such as healthcare pendant & burglar alarm providers, to ensure vulnerable customers continue to get the service they need.

If you are notified that your phone line may be switched by BT to Digital Voice, you should check that safe back-up solutions, appropriate to your circumstances are actually in place.

Warm Spaces where people can come together in a warm, safe, welcoming environment, and perhaps enjoy a warm drink and chat with others are available in centres in Belford, Berwick and Wooler;

www.northumberland.gov.uk/warmspace



Warm Hubs are different from warm spaces. They provide a network of warm, energy efficient community venues acting as focal points for energy support and advice:

www.energyadvicenorthumberland.org.uk/about-warm-hubs

Second Homes in the County are set to receive a 100% council tax surcharge from 2024 subject to legislation, presently awaiting the Royal Assent, being in place.



The County is also intending to take action to bring empty homes back into residential use.