

MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Monday 25th February 2019 – 6.30pm in the Craster Memorial Hall

Agenda

The Parish Council may, by resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960; S1, exclude the public from a meeting (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the proceedings; and where such a resolution is passed, this Act shall not require the meeting to be open to the public during proceedings to which the resolution applies.

THE MEETING WILL OPEN WITH PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 2361 Apologies for absence**
- 2362 Declarations of interest**
- 2363 Presentation by Members of the EJBC in relation to the Cemetery House project–**
Councillors are asked to vote on whether they wish to proceed with the loan for the Renovation of the Cemetery House
- 2364 Confirmation of the Minutes for the Meeting of 17th January and of the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of 31st January 2019.**
- 2365 Matters Arising**
- 2366 Financial matters**
 - a. **Bank Balance** – £6,244.10 at 19/02/2019
 - b. **Received since** 17/01/2019
Refund from NCC for Cemetery double charge - £39.00
 - c. **Spent since** 17/01/2019
Clerk wages & expenses (Dec 2018-Jan 2019) - £240.00
PAYE (Dec 2018-Jan 2019) - £60.00
 - d. **Payments required**
Clerk wages & expenses (Jan - Feb 2019) - £300.00
PAYE (Jan - Feb 2019) - £75.00
- 2367 County Councillor's report** - circulated Questions to the CC.
- 2368 Neighbourhood Plan** – update from Clerk
- 2369 EJBC (Embleton Joint Burial Committee)** – update from Council representatives on EJBC.
- 2370 Planning Matters**
 - 19/00259/FUL** | Proposed erection of two, three bedroom detached residential dwelling. (C3 Use). |Land South West Of Chapel Row Dunstanburgh Road Craster Northumberland.
 - 19/00472/FUL** | Glaze in rear small patio area. | Harbour Cottage 5 Haven Hill Craster Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3TR.
- 2371 Craster Trail update** – verbal update from the Clerk on recent works to the Craster Trail.
- 2372 Broadband for the Hall** – update on phone line and broadband to the Hall.
- 2373 Craster Community Trust** – report from Parish Council representative
- 2374 Karbon Homes Funding opportunity**
- 2375 Awareness road signs of the 20mph speed limit on Heugh Road**
- 2376 Pre-Submission Draft of the Northumberland Local Plan**

Councillors are asked to consider their response to the plan

2377 Correspondence received

Correspondence received from two residents asking what the Parish Council position is in relation to planning application 19/00259/FUL – Clerk has responded.

Ongoing correspondence re: EJBC house renovation project.

2378 Parish Council Administration

2379 Items for Next Agenda

2380 Date and time of next meeting – The next meeting of the Council is to be held at 7:00pm on 21st March 2019.

Open to Public & Press

RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS ACCOUNT	Craster PC 2018/19		
Craster Parish Council - Financial Position @19th February 2019			
RECEIPTS			This Year
	Precept		£ 2,500.00
	Bank/VAT		£ -
	Refunds		£ 2,737.72
	Misc		£ 6,931.00
	TOTAL RECEIPTS		£ 12,168.72
PAYMENTS			
			This Year
	Salary		£ 2,352.00
	HMRC		£ 588.00
	Grants/ Donations		£ -
	Travel		£ -
	Postage Etc		£ -
	Burial Cmttee		£ -
	Admin		£ -
	Misc		£ 17,161.91
	VAT		£ 2,063.15
	Bank		£ -
	TOTAL PAYMENTS		£ 22,165.06
	Increase/Decrease in Funds		- £ 9,996.34
£ -	Funds at start of the year		£ 16,240.44
	Funds at end of the year		£ 6,244.10

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 17th January 2019 – 7.00pm in the Craster Memorial Hall

Councillors present:

Chair: Ann Fettis

Parish Council members: Elizabeth Pearson, Rosie Robson, Martin Smith, Henry Cummins, Margaret Brooks and Jennifer Doherty.

In attendance: 2 members of the public, David English and Sarah Brannigan (NCC Neighbourhood Planning Officers).

Clerk: Adam Shanley

Questions from the public: none received

2381 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Green and County Cllr Wendy Pattison

2382 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received from Members.

2383 Presentation by David English, NCC Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Manager on Neighbourhood plan

David English and Sarah Brannigan attended the meeting in their capacity as NCC Neighbourhood Planning Officers.

The Chair welcomed both of them to the meeting and thanked them for attending the evening meeting outside of usual working hours.

The Clerk opened discussions by advising that David and Sarah had attended the last Annual Parish meeting to discuss the idea of setting up a Neighbourhood Forum for Craster. At this particular meeting, David reported that a Neighbourhood Forum was not possible in Northumberland as all of the County is parished and therefore any plans for introducing a Neighbourhood Plan ought to be led by the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that at the last Annual meeting, there had been enthusiasm for Craster setting up a Neighbourhood Plan. A constant issue coming up in planning considerations for the Parish - for new developments in Craster - is the issue of future occupancy and the need for more permanent residents as opposed to more holiday lets. The Clerk asked if a neighbourhood plan could help in influencing this. David advised that this could and in fact a Neighbourhood plan could be made entirely of one policy alone.

The Clerk did advise that the idea of setting up a Neighbourhood plan had been discussed in the past but had been turned down at the time.

Cllr Smith asked what the cost implications of setting up a Neighbourhood plan would be. David English advised that this could be done quickly and costs weren't really a big implication as Government grant funding was available for this and NCC would pay for the plan to go out to referendum.

Cllr Fettis asked what the next steps would be to set up a Neighbourhood plan. Sarah Brannigan advised that the Chair would need to sign an application for a Neighbourhood plan designation area to start the ball rolling on the process.

The Clerk asked whether about whether a Neighbourhood plan could influence the maximum number of times a planning application could be made without material changes. David English advised that this would not be possible.

Councillors were asked to vote on whether or not to progress a Neighbourhood plan and agreed unanimously to do so.

David and Sarah left the meeting and the Council thanked them again for their time.

2384 Confirmation of the Minutes for the Meeting of 15th November 2018

The Minutes of the meeting of the 15th November were agreed unanimously as a true and accurate record.

Proposer: Martin Smith

Seconder: Henry Cummins

2385 Matters Arising

Cllr Cummins asked the Parish Council and all present to be mindful of previous things which had occurred in Northumberland and in Craster and reminded everyone of the need to support those most vulnerable in the community.

2386 Financial matters

a. **Bank Balance** – £6,469.10 at 12/01/2019

b. **Received since** 15/11/2018

Donation towards bins project - £75.00

c. **Spent since** 15/11/2018

Clerk wages & expenses (Oct-Nov 2018) - £240.00

PAYE (Oct-Nov 2018) - £60.00

Royal British Legion - £16.00

NCC Insurance payment - £177.79

Contractor payment (grass cutting) - £450.00

Contractor payment (installation of bins) - £200.00

Hobberlaw plants (Christmas tree) - £130.00

Clerk wages & expenses (Nov-Dec 2018) - £240.00

PAYE (Nov-Dec 2018) - £60.00

Councillors also wished to express a note of thanks to Hobberlaw plants for providing the wonderful Christmas tree and to all those who helped put this up and decorate it.

The Clerk also advised that a payment had been made to the Community Trust for the use of the Hall for the November Annual Parish meeting. The cost of this being £24.00 in total.

2387 County Councillor's report

In Cllr Pattison's absence, the Chair asked all Members to direct any queries they may have on Wendy's report directly to Wendy in writing.

2388 Aln Valley Greenway development

The Clerk advised that he had received correspondence from Adrian Hinchcliffe, in his capacity as AONB representative for the Parish, to ask if the Parish Council would support the Aln Valley Greenway development.

The Clerk advised that Adrian hoped we would support the scheme so as to help green tourism in Northumberland.

The Clerk had been advised of the following from Adrian:

- A prime reason for creating a continuous safe direct 'Greenway' between Alnwick and the coast as soon as possible is because the most direct route, the A1068 is entirely unsuitable for use by vulnerable walkers, cyclists and horse riders with its unsighted curves and brows and constant speedy use by local traffic of all sizes

- Greenways are based on a popular and proven access model which works well.
 - The Aln Valley Greenway will provide a shared-use traffic-free path between Lionheart Station and Alnmouth Station some sections of which may occasionally be used by local farmers to access fields
 - The Greenway will provide a safe direct commuting route to/ from Alnmouth Station which will lower use of the A1068 by commuter vehicles and in turn, reduce car parking pressure at Alnmouth station
 - The Greenway will provide a safe walking and cycling link between Lionheart Station and Alnmouth Station for residents and visitors
 - The Greenway will provide a safe walking and cycling link between the town of Alnwick and a number of coastal villages, the Northumberland coastline and in particular to / from the Coast & Castles Cycle Route
 - The Greenway will be used to access local walking and cycling routes currently not easily available, if at all
 - If agreed, with appropriate safety measures, the Greenway will provide a link route to / from existing bridleways for horse riders and hopefully, with landowner agreement, to some new bridleways
 - High quality traffic-free routes mainly attract families and older people – two groups with spending power
 - Walkers and cyclists are attracted to safe, level shared-use traffic-free Greenways; they need to buy food and drink and require accommodation on their travels which in turn provides employment for local people which is vital to sustain small community businesses to the benefit of all
- The Aln Valley Greenway will improve quality of life for local residents and visitors, be an opportunity to improve health and wellbeing for all users and provide safe access to nature
- Because of its location, boundaries and agreements, the path will have minimum impact on farming practice yet benefit so many
- The Council agreed unanimously to send a letter of support for the scheme.

2389 EJBC (Embleton Joint Burial Committee) – Cllrs Robson and Pearson provided an update on the EJBC as Council representatives. The Council were informed that the Join Burial Committee had been successful in receiving a grant towards the renovation of the Cemetery House and were keen to press on with their application to the Public Work Loans Board for a loan of £25,000 for the same project.

Cllr Robson advised that a meeting would be taking place with the EJBC, Parish Council representatives and Stephen Rickett (Chief Officer of NALC) to answer any queries the three Parish Councils had on the project.

Some members felt that they couldn't vote on whether to proceed with the loan without further information. The Chair asked if an extraordinary meeting could be called of the Parish Council after this meeting, in light of the need for a swift decision on this following receipt of all the information. It was agreed unanimously that such an extraordinary meeting should be called to vote on whether to proceed with the loan.

2390 Internal auditor appointment

Councillors formally agreed the appointment of Fraser Suffield as the Parish Council's internal auditor for 2018/19.

2391 Planning Matters

18/01592/FUL | Re-siting of a static caravan | Land North West Of Dunstan Steads Farm Embleton Northumberland

18/03379/FUL | Erection of 1 residential unit (C3 use) | Land West Of 15 Dunstanburgh Road Dunstanburgh Road Craster Northumberland

The Clerk advised that there were no updates regarding application **18/01592/FUL** and also advised that planning application **18/03379/FUL** had been refused following the meeting of the local Area Council. Cllr Margaret Brooks had represented the Parish Council at this meeting.

2392 Craster Trail update

A verbal update from the Clerk on recent works to the Craster Trail was provided. The Clerk advised that he was still awaiting a reply from Ivan at NCC re additional funding for other works outside the LEADER project.

The Clerk also advised that Margaret Brooks had been working closely with the designer of the map and a copy of this would hopefully be ready soon for the Council to approve.

2393 Bins Appeal

Councillors considered a way forward for the bins project.

The Clerk advised that there had been much enthusiasm for the Parish Council to replace the bins in the Parish and indeed a number of offers of contributions towards the project had been received.

The Council agreed to do the following on the bins:

Bins to be removed:

1 outside bark pots

3 at the harbour

3 outside the play park

New bins:

1 at harbour where wooden frame currently is (the frame to be removed)

1 by the picnic area (to account for the three being removed outside the playpark)

1 by the Jolly Fisherman

1 at South Acres

1 at Craster bus shelter

The Clerk advised that this work would not be undertaken until after April 1st however as we have received a very kind offer of funding from Cllr Wendy Pattison to carry out this work and we have also received funding from some local businesses towards this project too.

The Clerk advised that he would consult with NCC on this and report back to the next Full Parish Council meeting as it is likely that this would be carried out by NCC.

2394 Precept

The Clerk advised Councillors of the need to decide on the precept request for 2019/20. The Clerk reminded Members that this matter had been discussed at the last Annual Parish meeting, where the Parish was consulted and the figure of £4,500.00 for 2019/20 had been discussed.

Councillors formally agreed the figure of £4,500.00 as their precept request for 2019/20.

2395 Broadband for the Hall

The Clerk advised that he had received correspondence from Cllr Mark Green on the installation of WIFI to the Hall to state that he had met with the contractors putting in the cables, they had finished laying an underground line up to the west end of the village hall. They are due to complete their bit tomorrow had estimated that Openreach would do their bit in the next

week. The Clerk reported that Cllr green would be keeping the Parish Council updated on an installation date.

2396 Craster Community Trust

No CCT report was provided owing to the Trust not having had their meeting for January yet.

2397 Correspondence received

The Clerk advised that he had received correspondence from a non-Parishioner regarding a tragic accident, which had resulted in the death of a young man over the weekend. The individual had asked about putting a memorial bench in Craster for the young man. The Clerk advised that he had pointed the person contacting in the right direction for such a request.

2398 Parish Council Administration

The Clerk reminded Councillors of the need to fill the two vacancies on the Parish Council.

2399 Items for Next Agenda

The Clerk reminded Councillors that if they'd like anything on the Agenda for the February meeting, to contact him in writing about this.

2400 Date and time of next meeting – The next meeting of the Council is to be held at 7:00pm on 21st February 2019.

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 31st January 2019 – 6.00pm in the Craster Memorial Hall

Councillors Present

Chair: Cllr Ann Fettis

Parish Council members: Elizabeth Pearson, Rosie Robson, Mark Green, Henry Cummins and Margaret Brooks

In Attendance: 3 members of the public.

Clerk: Adam Shanley

2361 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Martin Smith.

2362 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

2363 Embleton Joint Burial Committee

Councillors considered a request by the EJBC to approve the application of a loan from the public works loan board in respect of the redevelopment of the Cemetery House.

Cllrs Robson and Pearson presented the facts to date of what had occurred as part of the works. When the caretaker resigned the EJBC reviewed the management of the cemetery and it is now managed and maintained with no resident caretaker. The grounds maintenance is sub-contracted out and undertakers are required to make their own arrangements for grave digging and internments. The administration of the cemetery is now done by the Clerk and members of the committee. Initially the EJBC, with the agreement of the Parish Councils, explored the sale of the house and the investment of the funds to provide an income to replace the lost rent. Offers were received in the region of £170,000, but with the current low rates of interest this would not provide an adequate income. In July 2017 the Government launched the Community Housing Initiative and the EJBC approached Northumberland County Council to determine if they would be eligible for a grant under that scheme. With a positive feedback the EJBC proceeded to instruct an Architectural Technician to survey the property and develop a scheme of works to bring it to the Decent Homes Standard. Based on this scheme of works the EJBC applied for and obtained planning permission and building control approval. The scheme of works was used as the basis for a public tender and a contractor's proposal (Appendix 7) was selected at a fixed cost of £65,000. Taking account of the cost of the preparation of the scheme of works and associated approvals, and a 10% contingency allowance, the EJBC have estimated that the total project is £75,000. On the basis of this estimate an application for a grant under the Community Housing Initiative was made and on 11th January an offer of a grant was received. A condition of the grant is that a loan is obtained to cover the difference between the project cost and the grant, £25,000.

A requirement of the application for permission to borrow is that there should have been public consultation. A flyer, (Appendix 10) has been delivered to every household in the three parishes and the response, though small, is supportive. The Clerk reported that he had received correspondence from the Clerk of the Burial Committee to state that he had received 7 responses from Parishioners of Craster, all of which were supportive of the loan for the redevelopment of the Cemetery House.

There was some concern expressed about level of rent per month proposed as an affordable rent. Cllr Green advised that he did not feel that £480 per month was an affordable rent. It was felt that £400- £420 per month seemed more affordable. Cllr Green advised that he felt that a letter should be received from

Homes for Northumberland to indicate what they class as an affordable rent, together with comparable properties in the area.

Cllrs Robson and Pearson expressed concern about what would happen to the Cemetery House if this project wasn't seen through and redevelopment did not happen as the property at present is not in a habitable condition.

Cllr Green advised that he felt that a full cashflow should be provided for the project following receipt of guidance from Homes for Northumberland on what constituted an affordable rent.

The Clerk advised that, in order to enable the EJBC to plan the formal submission of the application to NALC, they were looking for a formal resolution from all three Parish Councils to be passed in support of the application. Two options may be explored:

Either, an application be made by Embleton PC for £25,000 with support from Craster and Newton with them underwriting the loan to £6,250 and £3750 respectively. Or, separate applications be made by Embleton, Craster and Newton in the sums of £15,000, £6,250 and £3,750 respectively. Either option agreed upon being needed to enable the EJBC to plan the project and work towards providing an affordable house to a local family.

Councillors were asked to formally vote on whether to support the application of the loan and it was agreed by casting vote of the Chair (having received 3 votes in favour of the application and 3 votes in favour of deferring the decision), to defer the decision until the following information was provided by the EJBC:

- 1) A written confirmation from Homes for Northumberland as to what actually constitutes an affordable rent level, together with comparables of similar local properties classed as "affordable".
- 2) A fully worked up cash flow for the project.
- 3) Written advice from Homes for Northumberland as to the details of any tenancy agreement needing to be drawn up for the letting of this property.
- 4) Who will be project managing the renovation works?
- 5) Will there be any 'get out' clause drawn up? If so, what will this entail? E.g. if one Parish Council decided they wished to sell the property, what would the position be then?

All Members expressed their willingness to hold another extraordinary meeting to decide on this matter as swiftly as possible so long as the necessary information is provided.

The Chair closed the meeting.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

County Councillor wendy pattison

wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk – Tel. 07779 983072



Craster Parish

9 Parishes Meeting – A meeting with Chairmen/representatives from all of the 9 Longhoughton Ward Parishes will take place on Friday, April 12th at 6.30pm at the Alnwick Youth Hostel. Parish Clerks have also been invited. Guest speaker will be Alnwick County Councillor, Cllr Gordon Castle who will talk about Alnwick and update everyone on the progress of the Alnwick Playhouse, library, tourist information and Marks and Spencer. Anyone wishing to look around the Youth Hostel will be given a quick tour. There will be refreshments provided and as always the meeting will be very informal.

We're on TV

Northumberland County Council's housing services team will be featured in a five-part TV series next week titled The Empty Housing Scandal.

The programme, presented by Matt Allwright, looks at what local authorities, charities and other housing associations are doing to bring empty homes back into use.

It is scheduled to be broadcast on BBC 1 from 11 - 15 February at 9.15am - so if you're interested, set your digi-boxes to 'record' or watch it on catch up

Highways England - Highways England is undertaking a series of improvements to bus stop accessibility. Work is to start at bus stops on the A1 north and southbound near Ellingham from 28 January 2019. The bus stops will be closed for the duration of the works. Should anyone need to access bus services, contractors will escort them to the next bus stop.

Work will start at bus stops on the A1 north and southbound at North Charlton and Brownieside from 18 February 2019. There will be lane one closures in both directions and the bus stops will be moved some 30 metres up the road for the duration of the works. We have worked with school transport to ensure that after half term children will be escorted to the temporary bus stops from the drop off point at North Charlton. Access to residences and businesses in North Charlton and Brownieside will be retained at all time.

Start4Life campaign

On Wednesday 6 February, Public Health England (PHE) launched its first ever Start4Life campaign offering parents support and advice, during what can be a confusing time, on introducing solid foods to their baby.

A brand-new weaning hub has been launched on the Start4Life website to help parents during their weaning journey. Packed with NHS-approved advice and tips for each weaning stage, plus simple, healthy weaning recipes, it puts everything parents need to know in one place.

For more information on Start4Life's weaning hub visit: www.nhs.uk/start4life/weaning

Local plan publication agreed, then for submission to Government

A planning document that will shape the future of Northumberland up to 2036 and beyond was agreed by the county council.

The Northumberland Local Plan promotes sustainable growth in the economy as well as expansion of choice in the housing market, but not at the expense of Green Belt and the special environmental character of the county.

The 'publication draft' of the plan was considered by Northumberland County Council's full council meeting, and councillors agreed to its publication for final public scrutiny before submission to Government.

The plan sets out strategic planning policies and planning principles for the whole county, the general scale and distribution of new development, and the detail of where new homes, workplaces and facilities will be located.

Since the council withdrew the previous Core Strategy in July 2017 very fast progress has been made in development of this new Local Plan, and by May 2019 it will be submitted to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government for examination by a Local Plan Inspector.

The new plan will ensure that all communities are supported by adequate services, facilities and infrastructure including housing, education, transport, health, social care, sport and recreation.

It is predicated on an ambition to support the delivery of additional, better paid and higher skilled jobs in the County, and to provide homes to meet not only the needs of the resident population, but also to accommodate the needs of people moving into Northumberland.

The overall housing numbers have been much reduced from the previous core strategy, with 17,700 proposed over the plan period as opposed to 24,000 previously. There will be no new housing allocations in the Green Belt.

It will extend housing choice and aims to ease pressure on low income families and those priced out of their own communities. A level of affordable housing will be required in all new developments - the percentage linked to house values in that area so that the most expensive areas will require the highest levels of affordable housing provision.

Northumberland has an ageing population, and supported housing for the elderly will be promoted in line with the council's public health agenda.

Councillor John Riddle, cabinet member for planning and housing at Northumberland County Council said: "This new plan shows our ambitions for the future economic prosperity of Northumberland.

“It will deliver additional, better paid and higher skilled jobs in the county. NCC plan to build on existing strengths while also diversifying and realising the potential of the rural and visitor economies.

“The plan will deliver a growing and thriving county in line with not only our aspirations as a council and national planning policy, but also with the ambitions of the North of Tyne Combined Authority, the North East Local Enterprise Partnership and the Borderlands Initiative.

“NCC are committed to ensuring that everyone with an interest in this plan has the opportunity to have their say and help shape the future of the county and this final phase of public engagement will provide an opportunity for people to review the final details and tell us about its soundness.”

Now that it has been approved by full council the Northumberland Local Plan will be open for a six week representation period, between Wednesday 30th January and Wednesday 13th March 2019.

This formal and statutory stage of consultation relates to ‘tests of soundness’. The plan has to be ‘positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy’. Responses must relate to whether the plan is sound in these respects.

Along with the publication draft plan the council is publishing for consultation scoping documents for a Design Guide for Northumberland and a Highways and Transportation Design and Delivery document - which together will provide developers, landowners and applicants with holistic design principles, guidance and good practice.

The council will run 23 public drop-in events at venues across Northumberland during February and March - and the details of these will be available online and in a leaflet delivered to homes and businesses in advance of the drop-in events. Your chance to have Your Say and view and comment on the documents and also speak with staff will be on Saturday 9th February at St James Centre, Pottergate, Alnwick from 10am to 3pm or at Seahouses Sports and Community Centre on Tuesday 5th March from 2 – 7pm.

The plan will also be available in local libraries and information centres across Northumberland. Comments will be able to be made online or in writing to the council’s planning policy team.

To find out more about the local plan visit www.northumberland.gov.uk/localplan

Representations on its soundness and legal compliance are invited during the six week period from **30 January 2019 to 13 March 2019**. Comments must be received by **5pm on Wednesday 13 March 2019**.

Domestic Abuse Services in Northumberland

Domestic violence or abuse is used by someone to control or obtain power over another person. It can include physical, sexual, psychological, verbal, emotional and financial abuse.

The Domestic Abuse Support Service in Northumberland is a fully integrated service with a single point of contact available 24 hours a day. It provides confidential, high quality specialist support and advice for women and men who are at risk of domestic abuse.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse:

- Call the 24/7 confidential domestic abuse phone line 01670 820199
- Email: DASSN@placesforpeople.co.uk
- Visit : livingplus.placesforpeople.co.uk/DASSN

Fire and Rescue Services sign cross-county agreement

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) have signed an agreement with Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS).

The agreement, referred to as the Sections 13 and 16 agreement builds on established mutual assistance and aid between NFRS and TWFRS. The agreement covers the Northumberland and Tyne and Wear areas.

NFRS and TWFRS will support all types of emergency incident cross border and will offer expertise and specialisms in water related incidents, road traffic collisions, animal rescue, urban search and rescue, adverse weather conditions such as heavy snowfall and wildfires, amongst others.

Signing on behalf of NFRS, Deputy Chief Fire Officer Mark McCarty said: "This is an excellent partnership which continues our close working relationship with our border services. The purpose of the agreement is to deliver fast and effective response to emergency incidents across Northumberland and Tyne and Wear by working together with Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service."

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Alan Robson, TWFRS added "Mutual aid is a vital part of delivering local resilience. This agreement ensures that both Fire and Rescue Services can continue to support each other in the efficient and effective delivery of emergency response."