

Embleton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Community Consultation 1

Methodology for Consultation 1

A drop-in event was held in the Parish Room Embleton on October 9th 2017 3.00 to 7.00pm

The event was advertised via the Whinstone Times and via a direct leaflet to every household in the Parish.

The venue was staffed by members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and by a Planning Officer from Northumberland County Council.

Attendees were asked to identify the location of their house using a pin on a large scale map of the parish.

Information boards outlined the purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan which was also detailed on a **powerpoint presentation played on a loop throughout the event.**

Participants (127 in total) were asked to give written comments on two key questions:

- ***“What do you think is GOOD about living and working in Embleton Parish?”***
- ***“What do you think is NOT SO GOOD about living and working in Embleton Parish?”***

Additionally, participants were asked:

- ***“What are your Specific issues or changes you would like to see?”***

Comments were collected at the end of the session and evaluated using text analysis.

Table 1 : “What do you think is GOOD about living and working in Embleton Parish”

Positives in rank order	Number of comments
Strong community ethos	41
-sense of community	
-friendliness	
-lots going on	
Rural environment	39
-green spaces	
-sea views	
-peace and quiet	
Local facilities	37
-shop, garage, pubs,	
-school	
-play park	
School	18
Size of Village	10
- compact village	
-retain size	
-maintain separate villages	
Surgery	9
Church	7
-toddler group	
Balance permanent : holiday homes	7
Quarry	6
-retain leisure use	

Table 2 : “What do you think is NOT SO GOOD about living and working in Embleton Parish?”

Negatives in Ranked Order	Number of comments
Too many holiday homes	25
-centre of village is an empty shell	
-push up prices	
-reduce availability of homes for locals	
Lack of affordable housing	21
-shortage of social housing	
-new houses too expensive for young families/locals	
Dangerous roads	17
-speeding vehicles all areas	
-speeding at Dunstan Steads (4)	
-speeding at Christon Bank (6)	
-footpaths	
-poor visibility at junctions	
-potholes	
Drs not at surgery	16
-lack of clinics locally (baby clinic)	
-cost and timing of public transport to Alnwick or Seahouses for clinics	
-inconvenience of going to Alnwick or Seahouses when ill	
Housing Market Saturation	18
-building new when current not selling	
-building new when properties vacant/derelict	
Transport	11
-lack of bus service to Christon Bank	
Villages Spreading	10
-Danger of Embleton and CB merging into one sprawling village	
Quarry	9
-better maintenance	
-designated use	
-dog toilet	
Building on Green Spaces/Agricultural Land	8
-infill rather than expand	
-no more building on farm land	
Cussins	6
-inconsiderate builders	
-changes of original plans	
Infrastructure	4
-facilities to meet the needs of number of new houses	
Poor Signage	4
-info for visitors	
-toilets and Mandells	
-Too many A frames on the village green	
Parking for beaches	2
Dog Fouling	3
Lack of community in Christon Bank	2

The key issues raised in answer to the question “What are your Specific issues or changes you would like to see are identified below:

On analysis of the issues the responsibility for addressing each item was decided and is indicated in the key

Red = NCC Blue = PC Green = NP Purple = Diocese Orange = underway Black = Private ownership or issues which it is uncertain whether the NP or PC can influence.

Suggestions for improvements to the village. *In no particular order*

Environment

- better footpaths/more public footpaths
- safe footpaths from new housing
- connect the quarry to public foot path near North Farm
- apply to make the section(belonging to North Farm) from the recycling bay to the public footpath leading to Low Newton as a public footpath. (Currently only open to users of North Farm complex)
- improvements to derelict garages at rear of Station Road
- preserve the sea views along the coastal route
- more benches and seats to enjoy the views and village
- games on the village green -assess demand
- remove or restrict A boards from village green
- Whinstone View embankment needs great improvement
- sort out the building site on Station Rd (Next to Barmoor)
- sort out the overgrown field next to the church, it is an eyesore (**Diocese**)
- recycling area needs an overhaul it is untidy and not enough bins for the demand or need emptying more often **PC onto NCC**
- building development has damaged the roadway within the bottle bank this should be repaired at the expense of the developers
- larger village Christmas tree to make a focal point
- general tidy of hedges and grass verges etc
- plant trees etc to mask the Creighton development from neighbouring properties
- create a local history museum ??

Quarry *preserve use in NP*

- create a nature reserve
- develop a wild life area
- develop a community use area with benches
- urgent need to develop and improve the quarry
- develop as a protected environmental area with paths and seats
- have a toilet and picnic benches
- bird hides
- stop people dumping garden waste in the quarry or designate a community compost area
- a small annual investment to maintain paths and keep tidy
- add benches
- clear footpaths and interpretation signs information about the history of the quarry
- creation of shared community vegetable garden on part of the site

Information

- interpretive boards giving info about the quarry's history, flora and fauna and other local history
- better signposting to local amenities such as toilets, quarry, play park etc
- free doggy bags at entrance to beaches and other areas
- increase/relocate dog bins
- street light turnoff period to reduce light pollution and house holders encouraged to support this curfew with their lights by using motion detectors during the switch off period

Traffic

- better visibility at junctions onto the main road throughout the village
- traffic calming measures throughout including Sea Lane and Dunstan Steads
- 20 MPH speed limit throughout the villages or extend the current 30 MPH limit and clearly sign
- better parking esp for beaches
- increase number of dropped kerbs
- improved signage to warn traffic about cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians
- pelican crossing between the school and the housing estates

NP to explore pressure points for parking and any possible future increase in demand

Housing -general

- calculate demand for social and or affordable housing
- **make improvements/remove derelict wooden bungalows at rear of Station Road**
- ensure the current infrastructure can meet the need of any future housing
- sort out derelict properties at Redstead Cottages (CB)
- renovate poor buildings before building new (CB)

Housing - new build

- carry out a needs analysis before agreeing to any new builds
- any new housing should be limited to infill or brown field sites
- settlement boundary for Embleton should be Station Road to the west.
- ensure infrastructure meets needs of increased housing and traffic
- any new development should have a proportion of help to buy or shared ownership
- no further building to the west of Station Road. Desire to keep Christon Bank and Embleton as two distinct villages
- ensure any new development is sympathetic to the current housing, regional architecture and environment

Housing - holiday homes

- permission to change houses to non resident should have a annual quota
- no new purchases to be made into holiday homes within the first year of purchase
- new housing has a covenant banning use as holiday lets

Community

- creating some annual community events e.g. Arts show, village fair. PC support for interested parties PC support interested parties
- increased funding for children's play area
- increased offer for the football/cricket field, tennis court, basketball court, boules area
- addition of a multi-use games area for older children and community use
- use vacant space behind park for recreation facilities esp for older children -bike trail, activity trail, fitness trail etc
- reinstate GP presence and other clinics (baby clinic mentioned several times) to Embleton surgery
- protect local facilities
- possibility of charging a levy to holiday home, hotel and B&B guests (eg £1 per night) to be collected from the business owners; using this fund to maintain the village environment to ensure it remains attractive to visitors or provide local information to visitors. (Suggested by a business owner)

Specific to Christon Bank

- safe children's play area
- cycle ways
- create a settlement boundary for Christon Bank
- speed restrictions needed