



# KYLOE PARISH NEWS

August 2018

***APOLOGIES** for the slightly later than intended production of this Newsletter. Personal issues took your Editor's eye off the ball.*



## **MEETING NOTICE!**

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2018/19

**All meetings are open to the public** and are held in Lowick Village Hall, on the following Tuesdays, starting at 7.30 pm.

**2018**  
18<sup>th</sup> September  
18<sup>th</sup> December

**2019**  
5<sup>th</sup> February  
7<sup>th</sup> May (Annual Meeting – 7 pm start)



*If you want to address the Council on any matter, it is helpful if you can let our Clerk know beforehand*



### Captain C D Leyland Fund

Grants of up to around £1000 from this Fund are available to residents of the Parish, and any organisations which support them. The sale of Fenwick Village Hall and a 'top-up' from the Community Foundation allowed the establishment of the Fund which is named in recognition of the Hall's original benefactor. The purpose of the Fund is to support activities which advance education, improve health, foster engagement with the arts, culture, heritage, science or amateur sport, or promote equality and diversity in the Parish.

**Interested?** There are two ways to apply:

- Individuals living in the Parish should apply to the Parish Council in the first instance;
- Charitable or Community Organisations that deliver, or wish to deliver, activity in support of the residents of the Parish should contact Jon Goodwin at the Community Foundation (0191-222 0945 or [jg@communityfoundation.org.uk](mailto:jg@communityfoundation.org.uk))



**Community Foundation**

Guidance for applicants is on the Parish Council website



### A1 Diversions and Verge Damage

As outlined in the last Newsletter, the Parish Council was concerned about verge damage to the B6525 and B6353, and various side roads, as a result of the night-time closures of the A1 at the turn of the year. Having written to Highways England in February, we received, more than three months later, the following response:

*“We sent our construction agent to drive the route and assess the damage to the verges shortly after your enquiry came in. There was a significant depth of snow on all the verges from where the local authority had cleared the roads and ploughed snow to the verge following recent storms.*

*Our agent returned a few weeks later to drive the route again but could not identify any rutting or damage that could be attributed to traffic diverted from the A1 during our works. Rutting that may have existed had now been masked by the damage from the snow, subsequent meltwaters and local authorities clearing the snow from the roads during that particularly inclement weather.*

*As no damage could be directly attributed to the use of the route as a diversion we have ceased investigating the issue. The road is a local authority maintained road. Potholes, verge works and any other maintenance issues are the responsibility of the local authority.”*

Earlier communication with Northumberland CC on the issue had ground to a halt, but, thanks to copies of the correspondence being forwarded through our MP’s office, a helpful site meeting with the local County Council Highways Inspector was arranged. He agreed that, although he was subject to budgetary constraints and an unwillingness on the part of Highways England to take any responsibility for any damage, some of it was serious enough to warrant short term action under a ‘make safe’ programme of work. But, other areas where the road was in a poor condition would have to wait for inclusion in a future Local Transport Plan.

Subsequently, a less productive meeting with representatives of Highways England also took place. Correspondence on the issues is on-going. The Parish Council believes it is essential that there is closer and more effective liaison between Highways England, who maintain the A1, the County Council and local communities.

**A1 north of Ellingham** Following their consultation which ended in December 2016, Highways England were due to publish plans for works to ‘improve’ this section of the road last Spring. Despite reminders and promises of imminent publication, nothing concrete has yet emerged. Press reports suggest that the planned work, originally scheduled to start this year, may now have been postponed until 2019. Highways England has a new exhibition van which will visit Tyneside for the Great North Run. We have asked that it venture further north – the A1 does extend beyond Newcastle!





## Local Transport Plan

Your Parish Council identified three areas for action, none of which have been included, for the 2018/19 Plan. They were (with the County response in italics):

- Street lighting from Fenwick to the A1 – *additional street lighting would go against the general NCC approach of not increasing the extent of lit areas. However this has been passed to the Street Lighting Team for further investigation bearing in mind concerns about reduction in visibility.*
- Interactive speed sign in Fenwick – *not eligible for inclusion in the Plan. Can be funded by the Parish Council or the local ward member.*
- Convex mirror at Berrington Junction – *these can only be permitted where there have been injury accidents and only if no other suitable improvement measures are feasible.*

The Council is currently being asked to identify priorities for inclusion in the 2019/20 Local Transport Plan. This can identify improvements, as well as road maintenance schemes and repairs to footpaths, bridges and other structure.

What improvements would you like to see in the local road & footpath network?

**Please let us have your ideas**



**Fenwick Defibrillator.** An application to fund the installation of a unit by the former Village Hall in Fenwick has been lodged with the EDF Barmoor Windfarm Community Fund. Its Panel will meet on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Our grateful thanks to the new owners of Fenwick Village Hall who have agreed that the equipment can be fixed to its gable end and who have also enabled its connection to an electricity supply during their works to renovate the building. They are also happy to continue hosting the Parish Notice Board.

### **Parking in Fenwick Village**

We have received reports of inconsiderate parking in Fenwick Village. Please let us have your observations and views.



**Inclusivity:** Kyloe Parish covers a wide and diverse area. Your Parish Council is concerned that folk resident outwith the main areas of settlement may feel marginalised. Every individual's views and concerns matter to us. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you want any issue raising, no matter where you live.

**Parish Council Website:** [www.northumberlandparishes.uk/kyloe](http://www.northumberlandparishes.uk/kyloe) Minutes of meetings, agendas, planning application lists and other documents are posted on the site. Googling **KYLOE PARISH COUNCIL** will normally bring up the link.



**Consultation on the Northumberland Draft Local Plan** closed in mid-August. The Parish Council response can be viewed in full on our website, but the main areas of concern were identified as:

- **In General**; it focused heavily on the South East of the County and rural issues were insufficiently recognised; policy objectives could clash because they were insufficiently cross-referenced; there was an assumption that the North of Tyne Combined Authority was in operation.
- **Economic Development**; there appeared to be little appetite for halting the slow decline in the economic development of north Northumberland; this will inevitably drive young people away from the area to seek further education and employment.
- **Housing**; targets for housing development were set out for Berwick and Belford, but excluded areas such as Kyloe; there was insufficient recognition of the increasing age of local populations; smaller communities are likely to wither if planning conditions are so severe that modern dwellings cannot be built affordably; restrictions on second homes are supported.
- **Digital Connectivity**; there appears to be no recognition of the need for rural areas to have access to the high capacity, reliable digital and wireless communications which existing industry and business, and new enterprises require.
- **Transport**; emphasis on walking and public transport ignores the needs of rural communities where vehicle access is essential; there is no apparent strategy for the installation of rural charging points for electric vehicles.
- **Environment**; the Plan does not address the issue of redundant farm steadings, many of them listed, which are decaying because of limited opportunities for re-use.
- **Water Resources**; long-standing water supply issues for our area are not addressed, other than a reference to unspecified Northumbrian Water plans.
- **Renewables**; there are inaccuracies in the detail, and dangers inherent in the Plan's 'broad-brush' approach to identifying areas which have the potential to accommodate future wind farm development; there is a real danger of cumulative adverse impact on the area.

**Neighbourhood Plan.** Responses to questionnaires are being collated. Funding has been secured for the next stage of the process which will involve gathering of evidence and developing issues identified as priority areas for inclusion, followed by further consultation.

Neighbourhood  
planning

#### **CONTACTS**

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