

WOOLER PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday, 24 November 2020

OPEN LETTER

Glen Sanderson
Leader of Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
NE61 2EF

Dear Mr Sanderson

Lack of investment, infrastructure failings and poor communications

Following a meeting of Wooler Parish Council last night, where once again the list of outstanding issues (predominantly with NCC Highways) was discussed it was decided that a vote of "No confidence in NCC regarding Infrastructure Investment" should be taken. This was passed unanimously and it was further agreed that an open letter should be sent to you as Leader of NCC to make you aware of the deep sense of frustration, annoyance and disappointment in the following areas;

- Lack of investment in Wooler by NCC
- The poor state of the infrastructure and disregard for the same when making planning decisions
- The apparent lack of communication between NCC departments
- The lack of response received from some NCC staff to queries
- The perceived inability/willingness of NCC staff to make decisions

WPC has numerous issues with NCC highways that have been outstanding for years and despite sending emails, site meetings, telephone calls and zoom meetings it has been impossible to get any resolution. Even the one item that was passed on the LTP 3 years ago is still not even started and is still in the planning/design stage!

We appreciate that Wooler infrastructure was not designed for the level of vehicles now in the town, but surely the existing problems should be addressed before compounding them with further housing developments?

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Matters of safety for our residents are ignored or dismissed as not coming up to the required level and some footpaths that are only passable with extreme care by an able bodied person are deemed acceptable by NCC inspection staff.

We would now invite you to an extra-ordinary meeting of the WPC to explain on behalf of NCC how all these matters can be addressed and what changes are to be made to internal processes in NCC to improve efficiency. We are aware that we are not the only Parish/Town council that has experienced these same problems of lack of communication with certain departments/individuals within Highways and therefore feel confident the problem lies firmly within NCC.

Yours sincerely,

M G Mather
Chairman
Wooler Parish Council