



KYLOE PARISH NEWS

June 2021



Parish Council Vacancies: at the recent election, 5 members were returned unopposed meaning that **2 vacancies are to be filled by co-option.**

If you would be interested in helping us fill one of these vacancies, or know someone who might be, **please contact our Clerk, Sheila Henderson.**

At its annual meeting in May, the Council elected Stephen Biglands as Chair and Derek Eltringham as Vice-Chair. It was agreed to hold the following meetings during the coming session:

2021 Tuesday July 13

Tuesday **September 14**

Tuesday **December 14**

2022 Tuesday February 8

Tuesday **May 10** – AGM & Regular Meeting

With the exception of the AGM, which will begin at 7pm, all meetings will begin at 7.30pm, and are scheduled to be held in Lowick Village Hall.

As always, members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting of the Council, but it is helpful if you can let our Clerk beforehand if you intend to ask any questions.

The Parish Council website: www.northumberlandparishes.uk/kyloe will contain advance notice of meetings and confirm venues and agenda.

Small Tokens of Thanks have been presented to James Hutchinson, Hughie Leyland and John Yeaman, for their services to the Council over very many years.

Northumberland's Proposed Local Plan, after public examination, has not been judged 'sound' but could be, if modified. As a result, the County Council is consulting on their Proposed Main Modifications until 4th August. **Details:** <https://northumberland-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/planning/localplan/main-mods>.

Contacts

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Protecting North Northumberland's Landscape



**David Biesterfield for the
Northumberland and Newcastle Society
who commissioned the Study explains:**

“North Northumberland’s natural landscape has always warranted protection. Until 2010 much of that landscape, including Kylee, was a designated ‘Area of High Landscape Value’ (AHLV) under the Berwick and Alnwick Local District Plans. The County Council’s abandonment of these designations leaves our communities more exposed to harmful development-planning decisions.

To help redress this and re-empower local communities in line with revised national planning policy, the Northumberland and Newcastle Society (‘the Society’) has commissioned a privately funded study (*‘The Northumberland Sandstone Ridges & Values – a Valued Landscape’ – Alison Farmer Associates January 2021 – ‘the Study’*) on which it is now consulting Parish Councils within the Study area, the northern part of which includes the part of Kylee Parish bounded by the A1 and B6353 roads – to the south it extends to Alnwick and across to west of Rothbury.

Completed by noted landscape experts, the Study applies best practice to desk-top and extensive field-based investigation. Within the Study Area, it evidences the ‘value’ of North Northumberland’s wonderful landscapes and identifies an area for local re-designation’ as an ‘Area of High Landscape Value’.

Funding constraints limited the extent of the Study Area which therefore did not cover land formerly classified as only of ‘Intermediate Value’ (including Berrington and the northern part of Kylee Parish). Nor did it extend east of the A1 (again to reflect the old AHLV). For reasons explained in the Study, a final refinement excluded some parish areas to the west; although, subject to provisionally available further funding, the Study will hopefully revisit these areas.

Much of Kylee Parish, within the Study Area, meets the strict criteria for designation. Page 38 of the Final Technical Report confirms: *“The Kylee Hills have a weight of evidence to support their inclusion ... as a valued landscape due to their elevation, natural geological features and semi-natural habitats, intimate and historic character as well as open elevated views both to the Cheviots and the coast.”*

So far, we have substantially completed our consultations with more than 20 other parish councils of which all – including Lowick, Doddington, Belford, Tillside and Wooler – have resolved to support the Study’s findings. As anticipated, some are gathering further evidence with a view to extending the proposed designation boundaries in their areas. That is also an option for Kylee.

For prospective development and landowners, the Study will represent a ‘material consideration’ for planning purposes. It is not intended to, nor will it,

affect development of a scale or nature (whether inside or outside the recommended designation area) that would not materially harm the landscape. However, were harmful development to be proposed, the Study, as supported by the relevant parish council, would provide evidence upon which to base valid local objection – evidence that the local community would otherwise probably struggle to organise or fund in the time available.

The Society hopes you will agree that the Study is of importance and value to your community.”

A brief presentation was made to your Parish Council at its meeting on 25th May when it was decided further discussion would take place at its next meeting on 13th July.

On behalf of the Society, David is available to answer your questions & can be contacted through your Editor, Colin Wakeling (colin@itswakeling.com) who can also forward a PDF copies of the Study's Summary Report, Full Technical Report and associated maps. These can also be viewed on the Society's website: www.nandnsociety.org.uk/areas-high-landscape-value

If you are unable to attend the July meeting, please pass your comments to Sheila Henderson, our Clerk.



Holiday or Second Homes registered for business rates do not contribute to the Parish Precept, meaning domestic council tax payers effectively make good the resultant shortfall, despite visitors benefitting from many of the services and facilities provided by parish councils, such as litter bins and bus shelters. A Freedom of Information request from Beadnell has revealed that 10% of all properties in Kyoel Parish will not pay Council Tax, Business Rates or Parish Precept this year.

Our situation is not quite as ‘bad’ as in Beadnell where 23% of all properties benefit from a tax regime which means they do not contribute to the provision of such local services.

The tax rules are complex. Some second homes do pay Council Tax at the same rate as residents and small Business Rates Relief allows some properties to pay no Business Rates either. The County receives reimbursement from the Government for non-levied Business Rates, but none of this is passed back to the parishes. Some properties are registered as small businesses but only let for a few weeks of the year, if at all – they only need to be ‘available for rent’. This makes owning a ‘commercial’ holiday home attractive and inevitably tends to inflate house prices in the area.

Beadnell are suggesting the coastal parishes lobby as a group for changes in the legislation.

Please let us have your views



Dogs in the Lindisfarne Nature Reserve

The Editor would like to clarify some points which have arisen from the announcement of the Trial Dog Zoning Scheme within the Reserve. He based the original item on the information then at hand, but has since spoken to the Senior Reserve Manager. The Scheme is in part a reaction to increasing visitor numbers and dog ownership, and in part an attempt to trial a more nuanced approach to the current by-laws which specify that dogs are to be kept on a lead or at heel and prevented from disturbing wildlife. As a trial it cannot result in prosecutions under the by-laws; it is part of an overall review of the by-laws and will be monitored. Site staff and volunteers may offer advice to dog owners on that basis. At the end of the trial period, it will be subject to review and if permanent implementation is considered it will be subject to consultation since the by-laws would need amendment. The Parish Council has requested its active involvement in any review, but has doubts about the effectiveness of signage in the area.

Fenwick Traffic and Parking Matters

Parish Councillors recently met our newly elected County Councillor Colin Hardy, in Fenwick, followed by a session a week later with Richard McKenzie from the County's Highways Improvement Team, to discuss:



Traffic Speed Through the Village: The Parish Council was badly let down by the previous County Councillor who had promised funding for an interactive speed sign for the Village but failed to deliver on his promise. Cllr. Hardy was left in no doubt of our collective disappointment. Mr McKenzie outlined possible measures to encourage observance of the speed limit through the Village. He would arrange to have traffic speeds monitored as soon as the equipment was available, so don't be surprised if you see monitoring cables appearing on the roadway. The data obtained would better inform decisions about the measures to be taken to alleviate the problem.

Drop-kerbs: Several kerb edges are neither wheelchair nor mobility scooter friendly. Mr McKenzie noted these and has initiated action.

Parking: Recent issues involving parking on the south side of the road were discussed and possible options considered. Mr McKenzie would be examining these further as well as other issues raised and reporting back to the Council.

Cyclist Warning Signs: The Village lies on National Cycle Route 1 and the Sandstone Way, which are seeing increasing usage, but unfortunately warning signs cannot be provided where cyclists are simply using the highway rather than crossing it to and from a bridleway for instance.

Beal to Holy Island Causeway: Double yellow lining on an experimental basis between the bend after the Barn at Beal and the start of the Causeway is going ahead. The Council expects to be involved in the consultation at the end of the trial period, so please let us have your observations.