

Rennington NDP Drop-In Consultation Event 23.9.21

Summary of Comments

Local Amenities and Community Facilities

The largest number of comments in this section were reserved for the local pub and our village halls. A number of respondents questioned how these assets could be better utilised (along with the parish churches), recognising that if we don't support them we could lose them.

Suggestions were made about improving the access lighting and parking at Rennington Village Hall as well as improvement to its acoustics.

The desire for a village shop was raised, and whether the village pub could host a shop/Post Office.

Other comments covered; parking issues at Rock Cricket Club, part-time GP services, bus service to Alnwick and postal services.

Environment

The creation, maintenance and registering of public rights of way (footpaths etc.) received most comments followed by recycling, a glass recycling collection point in the parish and asking why Northumberland County Council can't recycle more plastics etc.

Other comments included the planting of more trees (community orchard), a village pond in Rennington, a ban of street lights and the 'toning down' of residents' outside lights, and the preservation of the open pasture land.

Transport and Infrastructure

Again footpaths and cycle tracks featured in this section, with a path between Rock and Rennington generating most comment. There were also calls for the network of footpaths to be more joined up and to be more wheelchair friendly along with better links to the coast (Embleton and Craster).

Road safety was another issue raised, including speed limits in and around the villages and the 4 way junction at Stamford.

A regular bus service between Rock, Rennington and Alnwick was a popular suggestion with respondents asking whether this could be a 'dial-a-ride' service or a community minibus service setup in collaboration with other parishes.

Other comments included solar farms, maintaining the village green as an open space, a 'no' to wind turbines, stopping car parking on the green, access to the internet, and making holiday homes pay Council Tax.

Housing

There was a lot of consensus on this subject. Any new development should be in response to an evidence based local need. There should be a design code so that any new properties are sympathetic to the existing local housing style (stone, slate

roof). Any new properties should be primary residences only, no more (or severely restricted) second homes or holiday lets.

Where the consensus fell down was on the need for affordable housing in the area. There was a fairly even split between those who felt this type of development was inappropriate for the area and those who wanted to encourage those 'starting out' to take up residence in the parish.

Other comments included reinstating the settlement boundary for Rock, prioritising brownfield development and tidy up areas around the villages, that the Parish should benefit from any further development, a play area, and ensuring that second homes/holiday lets pay Council Tax.

Local Economy

Internet access/speed is seen as key to enabling home working and the setting of smaller artisan enterprises. Access to the internet (home delivery) was seen as a reason why the local community could not support any local shop, but opinion was evenly divided on this.

The main suggestion for broadening our local economy was for craft/artisan workshops, possibly using the village hall to hold craft markets etc.

Again the local pub was seen as a key benefit for the local economy as well as for the local community.

Industry and Employment

There was general recognition that this is a rural area and we should support and protect the local agriculture industry but recognise that tourism is growing sector. It was recognised that we need to create 'well paid' jobs that support families and not rely on seasonal employment. As in the local economy section, the suggestion was for small artisan/craft based enterprises selling on-line.

Employment opportunities were recognised as essential to encourage the younger generations to take up residence in the parish.

Again internet access/speed is key to support home working or on-line businesses.

Other comments included 'no more' holiday rentals/second homes, holiday lets causing parking problems, some farming activities being undertaken without regard to residents, and a request to shut down the wood chip plant in Rock.