



Longhirst Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT for 2022/23

Domino's Field

Councillors were delighted with the outcome of the Planning Inspectorate Appeal that effectively prevents house-building on that area of green-belt land. He hopes that further contact with the land owners about alternative uses of the land will be possible in due course.

Wildlife & Community Trust

The Trust is now established and has a strong membership. It has secured c£10k from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and there will be another public meeting on 22 May to discuss proposals for activities, including a presentation by the Natural History Society of Northumbria.

Butterwell Disposal Point

A public meeting had been arranged and was well-attended. We now await a decision from Northumberland County Council.

Volunteers

The Longhirst Litter Pickers celebrated their 20th Anniversary and made front-page news in the Morpeth Herald. The Chair also thanked those involved in other volunteering activities in the parish, including the Open Gardens, bar nights, coffee mornings, flower tubs and general repairs. In particular he wanted to thank Mike Elphick for his dedication. The Chair noted that village life is greatly enhanced by the commitment of a handful of people.

But he also noted that there is a risk to this continuing if new people do not come forward to take over as others leave and that some people end up over-burdened by the amount of work involved. He was disappointed that only one person from the village had come forward to offer one hour per year to help clean the signage around the village.

UPDATE FROM THE ACTION PLAN - 2022/23

Achievements

1	Communication between the Council, its Parishioners and other bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ The Parish Plan itself✓ Create a Parish Council or Parish Groups logo✓ Give feedback to NCC Storm Arwen inquiry✓ Attend TPC conference Jan 23
2	Access to green spaces around the Parish, inc easy access to the village for residents <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Wildlife & Community Trust - annual donation towards admin costs and regular updates at meetings
3	Planning issues <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Access to the village from Longhirst housing developments - reviewed documentation but suggested an informal resolution✓ Dominos Field - attendance/representation at Planning Inspectorate appeal - ultimately the application was dismissed✓ Butterwell Recycling Plant - arranged public meeting and submitted comments
4	Policing, Safety Issues and Community Care <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Defibrillator training sessions delivered✓ Footpath outside Longhirst Hall Cricket Club cleared✓ Verges cut, particularly in front of the village 'welcome' signs
5	Maintain and develop the sense of community in the Parish <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Working group from the village met to consider future emergency responses; provided £1k to Parish Assoc for a resilience / emergency fund✓ Commemorative tree and plaque for Queen's Jubilee 2022✓ Support for the Jubilee picnic✓ Regular meetings with NE Grains continue✓ Donation to St John's Church for churchyard maintenance
6	Key village infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Seat near St John's repaired✓ Litter bin installed at Longhirst Colliery Bus Shelter✓ Longhirst Colliery / Station Road C125 existing section path cleared / resurfaced by NCC
7	Good governance of the Parish Council <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ New policies drafted / adopted, including a Learning & Development Plan for Councillors and Clerk

Issues still to resolve

2	Access to green spaces around the Parish, inc easy access to the village for residents
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Public Rights of Way surveyed - remedial work notified to NCC but not yet completed⊖ Access to Potland Park - bridleway remains effectively closed	
3	Planning issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Dairy Lane / Longhirst boundary wall 'hole'- in contact with NCC about enforcement action◆ Longhirst Parklands - no developments currently proposed◆ Station Cottages - objections submitted and decisions awaited◆ Stobswood Haul Road - awaiting decision	
4	Policing, Safety Issues and Community Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Local Police Officer/s invited to each meeting - on-going◆ Liaise with NCC and landowners regarding fly tipping issues	
6	Key village infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none">⊖ Ashington Road flooding solutions (drainage ditches cleared / road raised, also manhole covers still missing)⊖ Longhirst Colliery / Station Road C125 improvements options will be pursued to resurface remaining section⊖ Support for Church in getting lychgate repairs done	
7	Good governance of the Parish Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Banking arrangements to be reviewed◆ Historic paperwork to be archived	