

Wark PC report 08.09.25

1. **Long dropped curb.** I relayed some information that Sean kindly sent over to me, to Phil Hall and his response was that everything they have done has been inline with national standards and currently the visibility splay exceeds the distance this being 30 MPH is 2.4 x 30 Metre.
2. **Tree at Stonehaugh.** I have reported this to NCC and they have informed me they have received it. They will notify me when work will be done.
3. **Still Working on.** Traffic calming measures in Stonehaugh, I am in talks with Nick on his work he did prior to me being elected on the speeding, and the flooding situation by the old school.
4. **Water Deliveries.** I have had a confirmation from NCC that they have received my enquiry.
5. **LTP.** Have you discussed what your three options might be. I am still working on my 3 that cover this whole ward. As of now I am considering one in Hardhaugh (Fourstones and Warden Parish) and one in Chollerton (which covered Colwell, Gunnerton, Barrasford and Chollerton). I am attending some LTP training tomorrow which will hopefully confirm my options for me and help me decide on my third.
6. Last full council meeting, one of the matters we voted on was changing the number of planning committees from 5 to 3. This was because apparently there were some LACs that weren't receiving many applications and some LACs being inundated. The new 3 LACs will hopefully balance out the workload. Due to proportionality Both myself and Martin (Green party Leader in Northumberland) have both been told we will be on a LAC. This will hopefully give the Humshaugh ward a good insight as to what is happening with planning applications. It will mean I will be able to speak on and support certain applications.
7. **Meeting Joe.** I will be meeting Joe Morris on the second of October. I would like to raise as many questions as I can from all 8 parishes in the ward so I want to ask each PC what might be their top 2 so I can choose the most pressing matters.
8. **Working with the community.** I recently met with a lady called Juno, from the ward, who is very interested in how we can get communities involved with the natural world. We discussed how people are very disconnected from nature and how this plays a heavy factor on people's mental health. I have some experience in Forest schools and during my time as a councillor I would like to look into this and see if it would be

possible to start discussions with people within the whole ward to try and get off the ground.

One comment Juno made that really stuck with me: indigenous nature-close societies teach that a relationship with nature helps us to regulate and balance out all our ways of knowing and experiencing the world, including our intuition, intellect, emotion, gut-feelings etc, so that no single aspect takes over and hijacks our experience/humanity.

9. **Connect to work program.** I came across this new initiative the government is taking called 'Connect to work program'. The ambition is for a more inclusive economy which enables people to get into work and to get on at work, ensuring employment opportunity for all. The Government aims to take a more collaborative, locally led approach to tackling 'Hidden Unemployment'. Eligible participants must be a disabled person, or belong to one of the specified disadvantaged groups, such as carer or homeless person. There is much more information to be found on the government website. I have linked the website here.

Check eligibility : You need to have a disability or long-term health condition that affects your work.

Apply online: by visiting the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/connect-to-work/connect-to-work-grant-guidance-for-england#annex-b--eligibility-and-suitability) or by calling the Access to Work helpline on 0800 121 7479.

Provide details: about yourself, your workplace, and how your condition affects your work.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/connect-to-work/connect-to-work-grant-guidance-for-england#annex-b--eligibility-and-suitability>