

**MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026– 6:30pm in Craster**

**Agenda**

Dear Councillor,

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, I hereby give you notice that the **meeting of Craster Parish Council** will be held **in Craster Memorial Hall** on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 6:30pm** to transact the following business:

- 1. Welcome and apologies for absence**
- 2. Declarations of interest**
- 3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026**
- 4. Presentation from Northumbrian Water on Craster pumping station and bankside improvement works at Dunstanburgh Road**
- 5. Matters arising**
- 6. Public participation**
- 7. Correspondence received to the Parish Council** – request for an emergency TPO, NCC road sweeping service and bins.
- 8. Business advertising boards in the parish**
- 9. Appeal to holiday homeowners towards projects within the parish**
- 10. New e-mail address for contacting the Parish Council**
- 11. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison**
- 12. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representatives**
- 13. Report from Craster Community Trust representative**
- 14. Planning and licensing matters:**
  - Update on 24/04252/FUL** | Change of use of existing agricultural building from grain store to livestock building. (additional information received 13.03.2025) | Land North West of Dunstan Steads Farm Embleton Northumberland
  - 26/00726/FUL** | Installation of an Air Source Heat Pump to be installed to the property | 3 Smithy Court Dunstan Northumberland NE66 3TY
  - 26/00659/FUL** | Loft conversion and rear mansard extension to rear elevation. Porch extension to front elevation | 14 South Acres Craster Northumberland NE66 3TN
  - Application for the grant of a new licence** for alcohol off-sales at 10 Whin Hill, Craster, Alnwick. Northumberland. NE66 3TP.
- 15. Items for next Agenda**
- 16. Date and time of next meeting**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – 6:30pm in Craster Memorial Hall.

And pursuant to the provisions of the above-named acts, I hereby summon you to attend the said meeting.

**Adam Shanley**  
**Clerk of Craster Parish Council**

**MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**1. Welcome and apologies.**

Received from Adam Shanley and County Councillor Wendy Pattison

**2. Declarations of interest.**

Received from Councillor Ian Brown

**3. Confirmation of minutes of last meeting.**

Amendment to state '£500 for plants to be removed'

**4. Matters arising.**

Nothing to report.

**5. Public Participation.**

a. Coastal erosion and raw sewage being released into the sea were topics of discussion.

**AP.** To contact Northumbria Water on this matter.

b. The bin at the end of North pier does not close.

**AP.** Contact Stephen to get the bins checked and ensure the bin collection person is locking them.

c. It was suggested CPC should consider different styles of bins when replacements are needed.

d. Heugh Wynd scaffolding is still in place 1 year after the insulation work was completed.

**AP.** Contact NCC Housing to raise this and have it removed.

**6. Correspondence received to the Parish Council**

Potholes around the parish are a concern to many residents as well as Coastal Erosion.

**7. Update on National Landscapes project replacing the signage around the village.**

Installation work has begun and it was agreed it looks good.

**8. Update on Craster pumping station being carried out by Northumbrian Water**

Residents requested we ask Northumbrian Water to place a light on the pumping station to indicate when pumping starts.

It was also stated the public toilets aren't clean.

**9. Report on blocked footpaths around the village due to overgrown foliage.**

The Laurel hedge over the footpath next to the bus stop in Dunstan needs cut back to allow people to safely walk through.

**AP.** It was agreed a letter should be sent to the resident who owns the hedge requesting action is taken to have it cut back. (All in favour of this approach)

**10. Report on the appeal to holiday homeowners for a financial contribution towards projects within the parish.**

Rolled over to next meeting in the absence of the PC Clerk at this meeting.

**11. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison**

Referenced the report included in the documents:

Potholes – NCC are aware, but the poor weather has slowed down work progress. Some have however been repaired.

Councillor Michael Robson stated based on other areas he has travelled to and passed through Craster area has the worst roads and potholes.

**AP.** Email Councillor Mark Mather re: the state of the roads and the extensive potholes and cc. to Councillor Wendy Pattison

**12. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee members.**

There will be an open meeting of EJBC on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February to discuss next steps regarding Cemetery House.

An information pack has been created which provides background and overview information for any councillors who haven't been involved from the start of this project and to inform any new councillors who are involved in the future.

**13. Report from Craster Community Trust representative.**

An update was given regarding the new signage on the side of the hall.

Also confirmed it's £12 pre hour to rent the hall.

Acoustic panels are still being considered.

There will be a WI fundraising bingo in the hall on **20<sup>th</sup> March**. All welcome.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March** there will be a coffee morning in aid of local cancer charities. All welcome.

**14. Planning Matters.**

Rolled over to the next meeting in the absence of the Parish Council Clerk

**15. Items for the next agenda.**

No suggestions.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Signed,

**Chair of Craster Parish Council  
(19<sup>th</sup> March 2026)**

# CRASTER PARISH COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT



COUNTY COUNCILLOR WENDY PATTISON

[wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk) - Tel. 07779 983072 and on Facebook  
– Cllr Wendy Pattison

## CRASTER PARISH

### NORTHUMBERLAND LIBRARY CONSULTATION – 13<sup>th</sup> February to 16<sup>th</sup> April

On 16 February, Northumberland County Council launched a public consultation so that we can get your views on the future of libraries, including:



- how we work with communities
- new ways of working generally
- opening hours and mobile library routes
- using new technologies
- how we deliver events, activities and information

Have your say

We want our communities and residents to help shape this work.

Northumberland Libraries currently offer:

- 29 libraries across the county with more than 270,000 physical books and items available

- two community libraries run by volunteers
- a mobile library service
- a home library service
- a digital library available 24/7 with eBooks, eAudiobooks, eNewspapers, and eMagazines
- a prison library service
- a school's library service

The Schools Library Service and the Prison Library Service are not part of this consultation.

Some statistics from our library service include:

- a million items issued each year and over half of these are physical items, such as books
- 3,500 events held in libraries with 45,000 attendees
- over 25,000 hours of free PC use recorded in 2024-25
- nearly 60,000 people registered with the library
- 20,000 people (7% of the population) actively use their library card

Our 2021 to 2025 strategy

In 2021, residents told us that they wanted:

- a better range of books
- longer opening hours
- a more consistent service across the county
- improvements to the library environment

Over the last four years, we've been delivering a strategy for libraries that includes:

- strengthening the services we offer
- creating library 'hubs' (main library sites)
- extending our services to reach more people
- working with partners to enhance our services

A lot has been achieved since then, including the purchase of a new mobile library unit in January 2025.

What is being proposed? We are looking at a new way of running library services. We want to do this by working in partnership with more local communities.

**Hub, Primary and Secondary libraries**

Hub Libraries would be larger libraries in the North, South, East, West and Central areas. These bigger libraries would be open for longer and offer more services. This would include Alnwick Library which will be open for 45 hours weekly.

Smaller libraries would still be important and would help people access services close to home.

## **Community Access Libraries**

Community Access Libraries (CALs) are small libraries run by local volunteers. They give people more opportunity to use library services.

For example, Haydon Bridge CAL is open 15 hours a week and Heddon CAL is open 8 hours a week. Together they issue around 2,000 items and have 57 and 83 active members.

We want to explore whether more libraries could become CALs. This will depend on interest from local people and partners. Some libraries have been identified as possible future CALs.

## **Community bookshelves**

There are three community bookshelves that help people access books closer to home. These are not part of the main library service.

Community Bookshelves are a collection of donations that are housed in a community venue or receptacle e.g. telephone box. These bookshelves are used and cared for by the local community. We are looking at using new technology to grow other options. We would like to hear from any places that might want to take part in a trial of alternative provision.

## **Mobile Library review of routes and provision proposal**

The Council invested in a new mobile library in 2025. The previous vehicles had become obsolete and no longer fit for purpose.

It is proposed that the new vehicle continue to visit 214 locations. These visits would take place every six weeks instead of every three. Members would be allowed to borrow more books, and they could keep them for longer. We know people value this service, and the aim is to keep it running well while staying within budget.

Mobile library services are important. They give people in rural areas access to books and information for recreation and learning. We could improve these services by working with local community hubs and wider VCSE networks through Thriving Together our VCSE coordination partner. Hubs could act as drop off and collection points. This would make the service stronger, cheaper to run, and easier for people to use.

Working with communities would make libraries more convenient. It would encourage people to use local community spaces and connect people into existing support such as befriending.

The Home Library Service will still be available for the most vulnerable people. Volunteers will continue visit them at home and deliver books/services to their door.

# **Council to build new complex care facility for people with advanced dementia**

**Northumberland County Council is set to build a 36-bed specialist residential care facility to support people with advanced complex dementias and other complex mental health support needs.**

**The proposal, which was approved by the Council's Cabinet, will see a council-owned site in Bedlington re-developed to provide much needed accommodation capable of meeting the growing demand for specialist care.**

**Support for people with the most complex needs can require a specific environment and experienced and suitably trained staff, and a growing number of external providers have taken the decision to stop providing this type of care.**

**This has resulted in older people being placed in services outside Northumberland to have their needs met.**

**This proposal is the first time in two decades that the council will open a residential service itself.**

**The new complex care facility will incorporate best practice for using technology to enhance living environments. This includes integrating cognitive-friendly design elements such as clear signage, contrasting colours, and good lighting, alongside assistive technologies like smart lighting, fall sensors, and electronic medication dispensers.**

**The landscaping and external environment will be equally important, and the plan is to include therapeutic outdoor gardens and multi-sensory spaces to promote the well-being and quality of life of the residents.**

**Foundry House was, until recently, an office base for staff teams. Historically it has also been a base for operating day services and a residential care home.**

## **Garden waste collection service**

**20 collections each year from March to November, with detailed bin guidelines and subscription options.**

**Apply or renew - The service costs £59 for the year. You will receive 20 collections, between March and November.**

**Not all houses are eligible to receive the service. Enter your postcode on the NCC website to find out if you're eligible before applying or telephone 0345 600 6400 and ask for garden waste.**

**Once you have signed up, you will need to make payment, so have your credit/debit card handy.**

**You have 14 working days, from the date you made your payment, to cancel the service. Requests to cancel the service must be either in writing or by email.**

**Address:**

**Waste Management Team**

Northumberland County Council  
County Hall  
Morpeth  
NE61 2EF/ Email [centralwasteteam@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:centralwasteteam@northumberland.gov.uk)

## **Residents reminded of recycling rights and wrongs**

Residents are being reminded of the importance of placing the right materials in their recycling bins – after it emerged that almost a quarter of material collected in the county is contaminated.

Over 23% of all material collected from recycling bins at kerbside in Northumberland, is in fact contamination, including black bags, nappies, dog waste, food waste, textiles and clothing and electrical items.

Just one contaminated bin can result in an entire load of recycling (from multiple streets and hundreds of properties) being spoiled and rejected, meaning that it must be sent for incineration instead of being recycled.

We currently only want residents to put their paper, card, cardboard, plastic bottles, tin cans, drinks cans and empty aerosol cans in their recycling bins.

Based on our current levels of contamination, it's forecast to cost the County Council in excess of £1m in 2026/2027 and incinerating waste, whilst a cleaner and more environmentally friendly alternative to landfill, is still harmful to our environment.

This is money that could be better spent on the delivery of essential council services, such as our highways, adult social care and children's services.

It is also one of our priorities to protect our outstanding natural environment by ensuring as much 'waste' as possible is captured for re-use and recycling, as opposed to disposal.

By law, all householders have a legal duty of care to ensure all household waste produced at the property is disposed of safely and correctly.

To tackle the problem, bins out for collection will be subject to inspections to ensure no non-permitted items are present.

Any bins found to be containing contaminants will be rejected and a red tag will be applied, advising residents that the bin has been rejected due to contamination.

The resident will then receive a letter prior to the next recycling collection, providing more detail and explaining how this can be avoided in future.