

Longhurst Parish Council

Strategic Plan - Actions Completed 2019/21

The Strategic Plan sets the council's vision for the parish, its purpose, objectives and key priorities. This update explains what key objectives the Parish Council has achieved from the list of priorities it set for the year.

1. Ensure good Communication between the Council, its Parishioners and other groups				
Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead	Progress
1.3	<p>Keeping information up-to-date on the Parish notice boards</p> <p><i>Agendas are placed on the following notice boards:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War Memorial (Ancroft) & Bus Stop - Cllr Richard Tordoff • Colliery & Ulgham Lane - Cllr Glen Fahy • Micklewood - Janet Quinn (resident) 	Jun 2019	All	Completed
2. Ensure good access to the village and its green spaces and help to develop and maintain them				
Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead	Progress
2.2	<p>Liaise with the Woodland Trust to ensure that access to the Millennium Wood / Paddock Wood is upgraded and made safe</p> <p><i>The entrance to the wood was repaired by volunteers, using funds provided by the Woodland Trust - many thanks are expressed to the Woodland Trust for this.</i></p>	Jan 2020	CM / RT	Completed

3. Planning Issues				
Ref	Action	Timescale	Lead	Progress
3.1a	<p>Submit an objection from LPC to the planning application for an Anaerobic Digester at North East Grains</p> <p><i>The Parish Council submitted an objection to this, this process included holding meetings with residents and seeking the advice of a planning consultant. A number of objections were raised, key amongst those being traffic related issues. Whilst the application was granted, the digester has not to date started, and the stance taken by the Parish Council led to some constructive contact with North East Grains. Regular site visits are now underway (at present these are virtual), and a dialogue has opened with the site management.</i></p>	Aug 2020	All	Completed
3.1b	<p>Submit an objection to the planning application for 10 bungalows in Domino's Field</p> <p><i>The Parish Council submitted an objection to this application, in particular citing the green belt location. Cllr D Towns provided his support for this to be elevated to a Planning Committee for a decision (rather than a 'desk' decision by a Planning Officer). In the end this was not required and the application was refused anyway. (Though applicant does have 6m in which to lodge an appeal.)</i></p>	Feb 2021	HD	Completed
3.1c	<p>Clarify access issues to the new building site on Dairy Lane with Bede Housing</p> <p><i>Northumberland County Council has supported residents' objections to the use of Dairy Lane for construction traffic, and this has largely stopped.</i></p>	Jan 2021	PC	Completed
3.2	<p>Add a link to the Parish website to enable residents to view planning applications online and register concerns/objections as individuals</p>	Jul 2019	HD	Completed

	<i>There is a specific page on the Parish Council website that lists applications that are of strategic concern to the Parish - see https://northumberlandparishes.uk/longhirst/links</i>			
4. Policing, Safety Issues and Community Care				
Ref to key obj	Action	Timescale	Lead	Progress
4.1a	NCC Road Signs & Speed Reduction Measures - inc new sign for Longhirst Colliery	Jan 2021	PC	On-going
4.1b	Ensure that the village road signs are clean and visible (working group) <i>Various traffic calming measures have been put in place, such as new and improved village signage, and including two speed warning signs. Also in response to a request from their Residents' Association there is now a new village sign at Longhirst Colliery.</i>			
4.4	Install Village Defibrillator <i>The Parish Association raised over £2.2k of funding to enable the purchase of a defibrillator. With many thanks to Northumberland County Council's Community Chest fund, and to County Councillor David Towns for arranging a contribution from the NCC Special Exemptions Requests scheme. The Parish Council was instrumental in securing a donation from the Freemasons of Northumberland's "Richard Henry Holmes Benevolent Fund".</i> <i>The Parish Council also organised the electricity supply and fitting of the unit in the bus shelter, along with the installation of a light at the bus shelter.</i>	Dec 2019	RT	Completed

5. Build and Develop the sense of Community in the Parish				
Ref to key obj	Action	Timescale	Lead	Progress
5.2	<p>Donate £200 to the 'Open Gardens' committee</p> <p><i>Donations have been given each year, though sadly the event has not taken place in 2020 or 2021 due to the pandemic.</i></p> <p><i>Donations are also given each year to St John's Church Grand Raffle, and to the maintenance of the Church yard.</i></p>	on-going	HD	Completed
6. Maintain and develop key structures of the village				
Ref to key obj	Action	Timescale	Lead	Progress
6.2	<p>All planters to be replanted for Open Gardens (Provided by Lawrence Carey)</p> <p><i>With the kind help of resident Mr Lawrence Carey the planters are kept fully stocked on a regular basis, with thanks to Broomhill Garden Hut for their support with this.</i></p>	on-going	LC	Completed
7. Good Governance				
Ref to key obj	Action	Timescale	Lead	Progress
7.1	<p>Identify specific areas of responsibility for each Councillor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine - Longhirst Hall/Dairy Lane • Peter - Highways • Chris - Village/Parish Council website 	Jun 2019	CF	Completed

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard - Defibrillator • Glen - Footpaths/Rights of Way • Mark - proposed Anaerobic Digester <p><i>This has proved useful in sharing the workload; it will need to be reviewed after the upcoming elections.</i></p> <p><i>Mr Jon Mills, from Micklewood Residents' Association, has agreed to support the Parish Council in matters relating to Public Rights of Way.</i></p>	Jan 2021		
7.1	<p>Development of a 3yr Strategic Plan – Discussion Document</p> <p><i>A Strategic Plan was developed and adopted. That includes an Action Plan (this update is part of that new process).</i></p>	Nov 2019	CM	Completed
7.1	<p>Develop a new structure for Parish Council Meetings to help meetings work more efficiently and effectively</p> <p><i>The agenda is now structured in line with nationally recognised best practice.</i></p> <p><i>There are also new sections for:</i> <i>Public questions / comments</i> <i>County Councillor David Towns update</i> <i>Residents' Association questions / comments (and representatives from the three main Residents' Associations are now regular attendees at the Parish Council meetings)</i></p>	Jan 20 Jun 2019 Jul 2019 Mar 2020 Jul 2020	HD	Completed
7.2	<p>Ensure that all Finance reports are up to date and fit for purpose</p> <p><i>Bank statements are available online for Councillors and residents to review</i> <i>A bank reconciliation is provided at each meeting showing spend to date and expected future budget requirements.</i></p>	Jan 20	HD	Completed

7.2	<p>Liaise with the Bank to rationalise signatories on the Parish Council Account</p> <p><i>The new clerk is now on the bank mandate, along with the Chair and Vice Chair. Online banking is the norm (alongside new Financial Regulations). The mandate may need to be reviewed after the elections.</i></p> <p><i>Key policies and procedures are now in place:</i> <i>Staffing Structure (mandatory)</i> <i>Code of Conduct (mandatory)</i> <i>Standing Orders (mandatory)</i> <i>Financial Regulations (mandatory)</i></p> <p><i>A full list of policies and procedures are published online:</i> https://northumberlandparishes.uk/longhirst/documents/policy-and-procedure</p>	Sep - Nov 2019	HD	Completed
-----	---	----------------	----	-----------