

North Tyne Plan

Bellingham, Tarsset with Greystead, and Wark
Parish Councils



Wark Town Hall



Lanehead event 26th January 2012



Bellingham event 1st February 2012

Consultation Report
February 2012

Contents

	Page number
1. Introduction	4
2. Events	5
3. Summary of feedback	5
Question 1: There are opportunities for businesses to start up and grow in the Parishes	6
Question 2: The landscape and countryside around us in an important characteristic of the Parishes	7
Question 3: How do you feel about seeing renewable energy technology incorporated in buildings	8
Question 4: Do you think we have enough public transport?	9
Question 5: There is a need for more affordable housing in the parishes?	10
Question 6: Using the internet is important to a) my life b)my work c) my children's life d) my children's education	11
Question 7: I cannot use the internet at home because a) high cost b) poor quality of reception c) unreliable broadband d) there is no broadband reception in my area	12
Question 8: There is a need for new employment in the Parishes	13
Question 9: How do you currently access services?	14
Question 10: How would you like to see redundant buildings re-used in the countryside?	14
Question 11: a) What issues affect you? b)Where you live? c)Your community?	16
4. Mapping of issues	21
Bellingham Parish	21
Tarsset with Greystead Parish	25
Wark Parish	28
5. Feedback from packs	31
a) What issues affect you? b)Where you live? c)Your community?	31
Transport	34
Environment	35
Employment	36
Broadband	37
Housing	37
Least favourite thing	39
Favourite thing	40

1. Introduction

Following a joint bid submission to Government, Bellingham, Tasset with Greystead, and Wark Parish Councils were successful in becoming one of the 'front runner' areas to develop a Neighbourhood Plan (North Tyne Plan).

The Parish Councils launched the public engagement on the North Tyne Plan with a series of events in the Parish areas. They were held on the 26th January 2012, in Lanehead Village Hall; 1st February, in Bellingham Town Hall; and 6th February, in Wark Town Hall. Each informal event was held between 6pm and 9pm

The aim of the events was to raise awareness of the Plan and begin to identify the issues that affected the Parishes to inform the development of a North Tyne Plan.

This report captures all of the comments raised at each of the public events and identifies common issues. All comments reported are as they were written – no amendments have been made.

The events were advertised using a number of methods;

Leaflets

- Direct mailing of leaflets to each commercial and residential property in the Parish areas (1133 residential and 55 commercial properties)
- Leaflets were also sent to statutory consultees and others who had previously identified they wished to be informed of policy development within the area

Newspaper

- Formal adverts were placed in the local newspaper on three consecutive weeks
- Parish notes in the local newspaper were updated regularly

Posters were displayed in key strategic locations

- Wark Parish notice board;
- Wark butchers;
- Wark surgery;
- Bellingham Middle school;
- Stonehaugh Social Club;
- Stonehaugh notice board;
- Tea rooms Bellingham;
- Public notice board;
- Bakers at Bellingham;
- Hardware store at Bellingham; and
- Newsagents at Bellingham.

Email

- A reminder was sent around local email groups

Local influence

- Parish Councillors promoted the events locally by informing residents and businesses verbally

2. Events

The events were an opportunity for people to come along in an informal way and have their say on what is good and not so good about their local area.

When attendees came to the event they were met by their local parish councillor who gave them a pack which included a leaflet asking what was issues affected them/ where they live/ their community, and 7 cards to identify what they considered the main issues were for broadband, employment, environment, housing and transport and two further cards to identify what their favourite/ least thing about living/ working in the Parish was. There was also a freepost envelope enclosed to enable people to take the information home and complete in their own time. A deadline of 24th February was given to respond by, 15 packs were returned completed, additionally there were 2 written responses (See section 5).

There were 11 questions and statements posted on boards where people could indicate their strength of feeling on the statement, post it notes were also available to add additional comments where they felt they wanted too.

A mapping exercise was also undertaken where positive and negative features could be added to give a visual of where there was something to celebrate and where something needed to be addressed. (see section 4).

There were 90 members of the public that attended the three events, which is a representation of 8% of residential households in the area.

3. Summary of feedback

A number of common themes can be identified from the responses across the North Tyne Plan area;

- *Business opportunities* – There was no agreement regarding the opportunities for business start up and growth although there are a number of potential sites for development identified.
- *Landscape and countryside characteristics* - Participants unanimously felt that the landscape and countryside is an important characteristic of the area. Opportunities to use this as a tourist asset were identified, though it was stressed that this should be done in a sustainable way that protects this special quality.
- *Renewable energy* – Responses illustrated a strong opposition towards wind turbines however there appears to be support for solar panels and hydro schemes and an agreement that there needs to be a mix of renewable energy technologies.
- *Public transport and roads* - Largely there is a feeling that there is not enough public transport, although understanding that there may never be and alternative approaches may need to be looked at. Feedback also indicates that there is concern over road conditions and maintenance schedules, and with the impact on the area of the rising cost of fuel.
- *Affordable housing* - The majority of people think that there is a need for affordable housing and a need for jobs to sustain the affordable houses. It was identified that the housing should be for young couples/ families/ locals as well as sheltered housing for the elderly.

- *Internet* - The internet is important to respondents and essential for modern day living. There is a common theme in that respondents feel that their broadband connection is too slow/ unreliable with cost and affordability also being an issue in the area.
- *New employment* - There was a strong agreement that there is a need for new employment to help make the area sustainable, however caution was raised that the employment is appropriate to both the area and the demographics. Transport was highlighted as a key factor in employment.
- *Services* - Although many services can be accessed locally residents are able to access other service centres to access a wider range of services. Refuse (both collection/ litter and dog fouling) was consistently reported as being an issue within the area, as was the need for adequate parking particularly within the centres of Bellingham and Wark. Mobile phone signal was also highlighted as an issue.
- *Redundant buildings* – There was common agreement that redundant buildings should be used for residential, tourism, live/ work units and small business development.
- *Issues affecting you, where you live and your community* - Common themes for the area include housing, refuse collection, protecting the environment against inappropriate development, fuel costs, roads, young people, communications (mobile and broadband).
- *Favourite thing* - The countryside and it's tranquillity, peace and quiet as well as the community were all commonly highlighted as the favourite thing within the area.
- *Least favourite thing* - Although there were responses there were no common items recorded.

Question 1: There are opportunities for businesses to start up and grow in the Parishes

There were 38 people responded to the question, opinion was split with 45% of people agreeing or that there was and 37% of people not agreeing.

Common issues: There was no agreement regarding the opportunities for business start up and growth although there are a number of potential sites for development identified.

Further comments by Parish

Question	Subject	Comment
There are opportunities for businesses to start up and grow in the Parish of Bellingham	General	Must be sustainable not flash in the pan Need for sites for office/ high industry
	Site	I know of many people wanting premises in Bellingham. There are none. Fountain cottage could be a starting point but NCC dragging heels
There are opportunities for businesses to start up and grow in the Parishes of	General	While there are opportunities at present there is no encouragement. Strongly agree

Tarset and Greystead		with statement
		Encouragement/ help needed for small suitable rural businesses. Use of existing buildings etc rather than a mass of new builds.
There are opportunities for businesses to start up and grow in the Parish of Wark	Business	Small and cheap industrial units/ farm building adaptations could be useful
		There is a room to hire in the hall
		The infrastructure can't support many businesses i.e. Parking
	Fuel station	We need a petrol station in Wark, or even garage facilities

Question 2: The landscape and countryside around us in an important characteristic of the Parishes

73 people indicated their opinion, with 100% of respondents indicating they agreed with the statement.

Common issues: Participants unanimously felt that the landscape and countryside is an important characteristic. Opportunities to use this as a tourist asset were identified, although care not to lose the characteristics in the area needs to be taken account of when doing this.

Question	Subject	Comment
The landscape and countryside around us in an important characteristic of the Parish of Bellingham	General	Planning permission for greenfield sites. Please fill up brownfield first.
The landscape and countryside around us in an important characteristic of the Parishes of Tarset and Greystead	General	More thought and listening to the views of local people important in any new developments – risk losing the characteristics of the area we choose to live in
		An individual area. Care needs to be taken to preserve the area
		Unique characteristics which should be preserved
The landscape and countryside around us in an important characteristic of the Parishes of Wark	Tourism	This could be used to promote the area and encourage visitors e.g. guided ramblers and pie and pint at a local pub.
		Development of petrol pumps into shop/ cafe

Question 3: How do you feel about seeing renewable energy technology incorporated in buildings

There were 73 people that responded to the statement and 62% of people indicated that they agreed with seeing renewable energy technology being incorporated into buildings (30% did not agree).

Common issues: Strong opposition to wind turbines, agreement with solar panels and hydro schemes and agreement that there needs to be a mix of renewable.

Question	Subject	Comment
How do you feel about seeing renewable energy technology incorporated in buildings - Bellingham	Sustainability	Not cost effective. Unreliable. Installation not environmentally friendly
		Sounds great but it's so expensive. Lack of government initiatives
		The cost of installing wind turbines will never be covered by that which they are supposed to generate
		Opportunities for locals to make better use of environment but do not have skill set. Local rural training
	Wind turbines	No to wind turbines
		Noise pollution, vibrations known to affect health
		No to wind turbines.
		No to wind turbines – not effective enough.
		No to wind turbines
	Solar panel	Yes to solar panels
		Yes to solar panels.
	Hydro	Water turbines in rivers and burns.
		Why not use the Hareshaw burn to put a water turbine in to generate electric
	General	Sad to say we have lost our AONB over the wannies.
		Yes to other alternatives
How do you feel about seeing renewable energy technology incorporated in buildings - Lanehead	Wind turbines	Wind power all good
		Against wind turbines.
		Dislike wind turbines – impact
		Wind turbines are inefficient, noisy and ugly
		No wind turbines
		Strongly disagree with wind turbines.
		Wind turbines if possible
	Biomass and hydro	Biomass?
		Biomass and hydro – needs investment.
	Solar panels	For solar panels
		Feel strongly that renewable energy have fewer planning restrictions, especially solar
		Like solar etc, environmentally friendly.

		Solar power great but we need new technologies and investment.
		Agree with solar panels
		Solar panels should be encouraged – without too many planning difficulties.
	Mixture	Variety of renewable sources preferable
	Funding and planning	Planning on renewable, should be eased and grant funding increased
How do you feel about seeing renewable energy technology incorporated in buildings - Wark	Community	Why can't communities have a group scheme? A solar array for example, PV panels don't work for every location
	Ground source	Ground source heat extraction can also be scaled up larger than just for single properties – a power station of pipes underground is definitely preferable to wind turbines
	Solar panels	More solar panels
	Wind turbines	No turbines
	Developments	All new builds should be encouraged to incorporate 'green' tech. Water saving – rain water harvest, ground source heat pumps, full insulation etc. Good to retro fit to existing if poss.
		We need to radically alter both design and methodology in building construction. The subject of future energy is going to increase in significance; security of supply, reliability and rising cost should drive our thinking. Technologies are available which, if designed into the project properly could mean it were possible to build an energy optimal construction and possibly where energy costs are zero.

Question 4: Do you think we have enough public transport?

Opinion was split between agree (30%) and disagree(48%). 46 people answered the question

Common issues: Largely there is a feeling that there is not enough public transport, although understanding that there may never be and alternative approaches may need to be looked at.

Question	Subject	Comment
Do you think we have adequate public transport – Bellingham	General	A later bus arriving from Hexham please
		A later bus arriving from Hexham please
		A later bus arriving from Hexham please
Do you think we have	General	Neither agree nor disagree. Need

adequate public transport - Lanehead		more public transport. Should go alongside other appropriate development.
		More busses at more appropriate times – shopping busses for example
		Adequate unrealistic in a sparsely populated area
		Don't think there will ever be adequate public transport. I will never be able to get to work/ shops etc without running a car
Do you think we have adequate public transport - Wark	Alternatives	Car share or community transport scheme could work well if co-ordinated and well organised
	Current provision	Bus service must be used or we will lose it. Buses often empty, can cost be subsidised?
		Bus service is minimal and unreliable
		Public transport very poor

Question 5: There is a need for more affordable housing in the parishes?

68% of respondents agreed strongly that there is a need for affordable housing in the parishes (56 people responded), 30% of respondents did not think that there was a need for more affordable housing.

Common issues: *The majority of people think there is a need for affordable housing. Feeling that there need to be jobs to sustain the people the affordable houses are for. Feeling that the housing should be for young couples/ families/ locals.*

Question	Subject	Comment
Bellingham – no additional comments were made		
Affordable housing - Lanehead	Demand	I don't think there is a demand by locals in this location
		Need for affordable housing, however this goes with a need for employment. Young people move closer to their jobs
		Has the need been established – if so I would agree all is interdependent
		If there were jobs then housing would be needed
	Local needs	Affordable for small innovative businesses – very necessary – as far people who have been brought up here and want to stay

	General	Should it not be possible to convert something for people to live in – not just as holiday cottages?
		There isn't much affordable housing
		Where are the 'affordable' houses?
		Are there any?
Affordable housing - Wark	Young families	More houses for young families
		Affordable housing for young couples/ families
	Local	Affordable housing for locals
		Affordable houses to buy for locals
	Retired	Good, modern economic community serviced housing for retired folk
	Efficiency	Energy efficient, low cost housing for locals; under covenant regarding price and selling on values set (cost and RPI perhaps)

Question 6: Using the internet is important to a) my life b) my work c) my children's life d) my children's education

- a) 79% of respondents feel the internet is important to their life (15% do not). 47 people responded.
- b) 81% of respondents felt that the internet is important to their work (9% do not). 32 people responded.
- c) 75% of respondents felt that the internet is important to their children's life (19% do not). 16 people responded
- d) 68% of respondents felt that the internet is important to their children's education (26% do not). 19 people responded

Common issues: The internet is important to respondents and essential for modern day living.

Question	Subject	Comment
Using the internet is important - Bellingham	General	I agree it is important – but not to me. Yes for children, future and education
		I don't have a computer
		The internet is responsible for a great deal of trouble. I don't want any part of it.
		Increased coverage for mobile phones. 3G/ 4G coverage – when?
Using the internet is important - Lanehead	General	Keeping in touch with everything is essentially done through the internet : utility bills, banking, news, weather etc, socialising, purchasing
		In this day and age how could it not

		be?
Using the internet is important - Wark	General	Being quite remote use internet shopping

Question 7: I cannot use the internet at home because a) high cost b) poor quality of reception c) unreliable broadband d) there is no broadband reception in my area

- a) Opinion was split – 53% felt that the cost was too high, 47% did not (15 people responded)
- b) 54% felt that there was a poor quality of broadband reception (31% did not), 26 people responded
- c) 45% felt that the broadband coverage was unreliable, 41% did not. 22 people responded
- d) 60% of people felt that there was no broadband in their area, 40% did not. 15 people responded.

Common issues: There is a common theme in that respondents feel that their broadband connection is too slow/ unreliable.

Question	Subject	Comment
I cannot use the internet at home – Bellingham	general	Too old to go on internet I don't have a computer
I cannot use the internet at home - Lanehead	General	Broadband speed – upgrade exchanges/ satellite Satellite broadband Question does not make sense Broadband in this area is unreliable and rarely is more than ½ what it is advertised at But I can use broadband – JUST Some reception variable
I cannot use the internet at home - Wark	Provider	Can only get broadband through BT. Not cheapest but speed is 10mb (on a 10mb contract). I have no idea if this is the norm
	Accessibility	My farm is too far from the exchange so I cannot get any computer access at all. In this day and age it is unacceptable Some internet providers have problems providing supply because of BT exchange
	Satellite	Government should invest in satellite broadband. For £350 I have a reception equal to London
	Speed	Too slow Slow connection Much too slow Too slow Too slow connection

Question 8: There is a need for new employment in the Parishes

The majority of respondents (78%) agreed that there was a need for new employment in the Parishes, 20% did not. 45 people responded.

Common issues: There was a strong agreement that there is a need for new employment to help make the area sustainable, however caution should be exercised to ensure that the employment is appropriate to both the area and the demographics.

Question	Subject	Comment
Need for new employment - Bellingham	General	This is not an industrial area. This is a rural town Need to avoid becoming a commuter town or old people's home
	Business	If business opportunities for small businesses were addressed (i.e. premises). Employment would follow it doesn't have to be industrial. But people in rural areas want to work
	Academic	Academic achievement and aspiration of children, young people needs to improve. Too many low paid part time jobs
Need for new employment - Lanehead	General	Employment opportunities need to fill the demographic
		Suitable, small scale development to fit in with the rural landscape – no big development that would spoil our area
		This has never been an area of high employment
		Economic development creates jobs and young persons and schools, local service, village hall etc to remain viable
		Small developments are essential to keep the place alive
Need for new employment - Wark	General	There is a need for new ideas and opportunities for rural areas
		Businesses using local and sustainable resources would be good
		Fully agree, jobs and businesses are vital for a village to have a future
		We need a small industrial estate to provide jobs

Question 9: How do you currently access services?

The majority of respondents identified that they access their services from Bellingham (43) or Hexham (38). The other options included online(26), Wark (15), other(10) and close to work (2).

Common issues: Although many services can be accessed locally it is still essential that residents are able to access other service centres to access a wide range of services.

Question	Subject	Comment
Services - Bellingham	General	Bellingham for shopping, gym, classes, Drs surgery. Hexham for all other services
	Refuse	Reversing refuse wagons causing pot holes in private road
	Fuel	Expensive cost of fuel
		Syndicate for buying oil, coal, petrol/ diesel
Lanehead – no post it notes		
Services – Wark	General	It is essential to have a car and travel to shop/ hospital etc. More mobile services could be encouraged

Question 10: How would you like to see redundant buildings re-used in the countryside?

Common issues: Common agreement that redundant buildings should be used for residential, tourism, live/ work units and small business development.

Question	Subject	Comment
How would you like to see redundant buildings re-used in the countryside? - Bellingham	Elderly housing	We do need an old people's home or sheltered accommodation
		The Shielling should be modernised NOT condemned
		Bring back the Abbeyfield
	Housing mix	The Shielling - Why restrict to young people – a mix of ages would be better
		The Shielling should not be demolished but used as single person flats – affordable housing for young people who wish to stay in the area
		Agree with the Shielling comment
		Fully agree – Shielling comment
		The Shielling for example should be made into young person flats, starter homes etc

		The Shielling could be become housing/ flats
		Old farm buildings made into housing (to rent) (7 stickers to support)
	Business	Fountain Cottage being filled with small businesses. Not becoming redundant and left to fall apart as becoming common with NCC properties
		Fountain cottage – should be transferred to the community so it can be used for small local business
How would you like to see redundant buildings re-used in the countryside? - Lanehead	Tourism	Re-use as holiday homes or holiday letting
		Support tourism
		Re-used for homes or holiday lets
		Redundant buildings should be used for conversion to permanent homes or holiday homes
	Live/ work	Brought back into use either as workspace or living
		Not just for holiday accommodation – should be converted to permanent residences to encourage people to move to the area as work/ living spaces too
		Live-work units
		Redundant buildings should be used for housing/ small businesses before permission is given for new developments. Old buildings should be allowed to look like old buildings
	Renewable	No to wind turbines. Yes to solar if appropriate
	Residential	Better to allow residential use than if to deteriorate
		Redundant buildings should be used for permanent homes
		Should be allowed for homes as well as for holiday cottage accommodation – the valley now has a great deal of tourist accommodation and will near saturation point is this does not change
		Conversion of redundant buildings should be permitted for homes as well as holiday use
Affordable housing	Redundant buildings should be used for low cost housing units for	

		permanent living
	Business	Small workshop businesses
		For small businesses
	Local need	Redundant building should be used – less emphasis on tourism holiday homes and more on local people/ business – please. Will you really listen to us?
		Re-use for residential development not holiday homes for people who currently rent/ live and work in the area not for business development
	General	If owners of ‘redundant’ buildings refuse to sell – how can they be brought into life??
		Redundant buildings should be used
		Re-use as living areas in preference to building inappropriate new buildings
How would you like to see redundant buildings re-used in the countryside? - Wark	Business and community	Business
		Holiday lets
		Small businesses
		Units to let to small businesses
		Bunk houses
		Small businesses
		Community groups
	Housing	Housing
		Houses occupied
		Affordable rented housing
		Housing association conversions
		Farm buildings (old) not falling down anymore/ repaired
		Affordable housing with 1 st choice for locals
	Petrol pumps	Housing
		Petrol pumps need sorted out
		Old petrol station needs something done with it?

Questions 11: a) What issues affect you? b)Where you live? c)Your community?

Common issues: Include housing, refuse collection, protecting the environment against inappropriate development, fuel costs, roads, young people, communications (mobile and broadband).

a)What issues affect you?

Question	Subject	Comment
----------	---------	---------

What issues affect you? - Bellingham	Gardening	Litter and weeds everywhere – why can't everyone do their own property footprint
		Firemen could keep entrance clean e.g. clean up on a Tuesday night. This was commented on by judges on Bellingham in Bloom
	Police Station and Hareshaw Burn	It would be good to see Police Station 'open' especially when 3 cars are parked outside. More accessible to everyone.
		Deep hole in Hareshaw burn below police station. Very dangerous to children who play in burn.
	Housing	There is a desperate need for low cost housing for the young and sheltered housing for the old; so that both may feel able to continue in the area they think of as 'home'
What issues affect you? - Lanehead	Refuse	Who is responsible for emptying dog poo bins? They are not done often enough and are unsightly and unhealthy – at least it is being picked up but where do you put it
	Development	Not against development but think it must be in keeping with existing buildings i.e. stone and slate style not modern as proposed at Lanehead
		Inappropriate development – wrong size/ type of new builds permitted. We need new housing but it needs to be appropriate
		Protecting the local environment against the input of inappropriate development
		presumption in favour of development is wrong
		Lack of residential development opportunity – want to buy and continue living in the area. Houses are too expensive for what we want i.e. barn conversions often for business development not residential
	Planning process and decision making	The views of local people should have more weight. More planning issues should be determined locally by Parish Councils
		Wishes of the local community should always be represented in relation to new housing

		development
		More emphasis should be placed on needs of residents rather than on tourism
		Does anyone really listen? Local views should be given more weight – and planning determined more locally
		Aspirations of the community will the community really have a voice or be ignored by the National Park and Northumberland County Council?
	Environment	National Park needs to be protected
		National Park is special and should be especially protected and safe from ugly development
		Preserving the natural beauty of our rural area. Does anyone in the planning dept listen to National Parks or Parish Council?
		Protecting the environment
	Infrastructure	Communications. State of roads. Cost of oil. Amenities. Developing sympathetically.
		Public transport. Oil costs. GPS's damaging environment
What issues affect you? - Wark	Highways	We have 'industrial' roads – necessary to the major local industry – this is not reflected in the investment they receive!
		Parking around the green and at each exit has got out of hand
	Housing	Too many non locals using houses. Keep local houses for local people
	Young people	Youth club/ children's play area
		Children's play area in the village
		Youth activities
	Communications	No signal for mobile phones
		Broadband speed
		Mobile signal
		No mobile phone signal
		Lack of mobile phone reception
	Elderly	Slow broadband
		Lack of mobile phone signal
		It is difficult to imagine being able to retire here due to the costs of living in such a rural area
	Fuel	High cost of fuel
		No mains electricity costs £160

		per month for generator diesel
		Fuel/ heating costs
	Emergency services	Worries about the response of emergency services

Question: b)What issues affect where you live?

Question	Subject	Comment
Issues affect where you live - Bellingham	Car parking	Parking – we have no roadside parking. Need to park in Manchester Square. Disabled parking bays, parked camper vans etc limit spaces too. How many bays? Where will those go like ourselves park.
		Boat road needs resurfacing and state of roads in general
		Parking
	Fuel	Cost of fuel
		Fuel costs for locals and tourists
Issues affect where you live – Lanehead	Public facilities	Public toilets
	GPS	Excessive traffic down narrow road due to GPS
	Renewable	Renewable energy – solar/ biomass/ hydro
		We need more renewable energy!
Issues affect where you live - Wark	Tranquillity	Preserving the tranquillity of the area
		Slow broadband which affects business
		Lack of mobile phone signal also affects business
		Poor mobile phone reception means we are tied to landline providers
		Young folks need to be able to use their mobile!
		Lack of mobile phone reception
	Communications	Lack of mobile reception
		Need for decent children's play area
		Lack of youth services, and housing prices forcing local young people out of the village
	Young people	Need for decent children's play area
		Lack of youth services, and housing prices forcing local young people out of the village
		Need for decent children's play area
		Lack of youth services, and housing prices forcing local young people out of the village
	Refuse	Dog poo up riverside is awful. Also in Wark village
		More dog poo bins in village
		Litter bins need emptying regularly (weekly) in summer
	Housing	Dog muck
		Lack of affordable houses to buy

Question: c)What issues affect your community?

Question	Subject	Comment
Issues affecting the community - Bellingham	Parish Councillors	Performance rating for Parish Councillors on a yearly basis
	Highways	Danger of leaving Manchester Square
		Car Parking an issue not enough. Dangerous coming out of square
		Is Manchester Square public area or is this a dumping ground for old trailers and caravan!
		Road from Wark – trees need managing to make road safe. Council should force landowner to manage
		Only one decent entrance to Bellingham i.e. from Wark
		Lack of marked parking bays
	Community projects	What about garden clubs idea or an orchard for the Diamond Jubilee in the field where the ½ pipe is?
	Refuse	Overflowing recycling bin and dumped rubbish at Heritage Centre
		Dog bins overflowing – would help is public knew telephone number to contact. Sticker on bin would help
		Rubbish bins overflowing not plenty in centre of village need to know when emptied and contact number
		Doggy poo bins left till overflowing
		No amenity site in area
		Rubbish thrown in burn
	Trees	The tree at the fire station needs felling as it is a danger to public – also needs children play area – before someone is killed. Bat survey should have been done by now – this has been ongoing for years.
		Need to know who owns trees outside 24 hillside at front. Need to cut back
Issues affecting the community - Lanehead	Residents	More emphasis on local residents – less emphasis on tourism
	Economic	Lack of employment opportunity and economic.
	Young people	Agree young people move – no work, no housing, no one cares

Issues affecting the community - Wark		Houses is forcing youngsters to leave valley so average age in increasing NOT GOOD
		Help young families stay by passing housing applications
	Petrol pumps	The state of the old petrol pumps 1) tanks are still in the ground.
		Petrol pumps eyesore
		Wark petrol pumps eyesore
	Shops	Shop gathering litter inside
		Local shops/ butchers/ pubs etc need to be dual purpose to ensure their viability – use them or lose them
	Play area	Need for play area and safe road/ path access to it
	Parking	Lack of off street parking in village makes the streets unsafe
		What about a small car park where petrol pumps are? What are the environmental issues of the pumps being left unattended?
	Housing	Need affordable housing
	Refuse	Dog warden needed to patrol regularly
	Highways	Wark needs a by-pass. It's the only village straddling the traffic route through North Tyne designated by the planner

4. Mapping of issues

Attendees were invited to identify sites where they thought there had been was a positive feature of the parish by placing a green dot on the appropriate site and state why it was a positive feature on a card. Alternatively red dots could be used to identify sites where there was an issue or bad practice, likewise a card could be completed to state the reasons for this. There were 108 issues identified, 31% of which were positives (33 issues) and 69% were negatives (75 issues).

Bellingham Mapping Exercise

There were 51 separate comments made at the Bellingham meeting, (15 positive features and 36 negative ones).

Summary of positive features:

- Walks
- Community and tourist facilities
- Historical assets and well maintained buildings
- Opportunities to utilise buildings

Summary of negative features

- Mart field
- Footpaths
- Lighting
- Community facilities
- Raw sewage
- Play areas (including litter issues)

Positive features

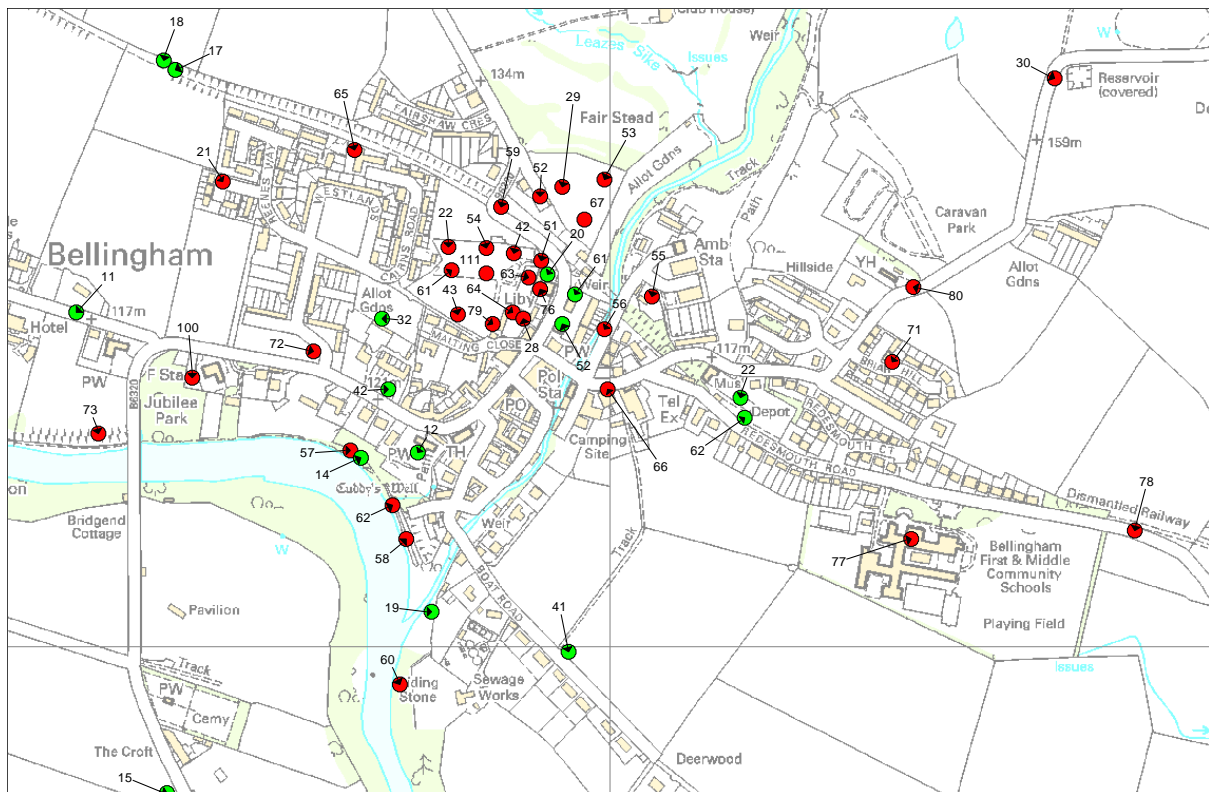
Ref	Comment
11	Twisty roads, flower beds
12	St Cuthbert's Church historically interesting building with graveyard - Lang pack and Cuddy's well. Should make more of it
14	Lovely riverside walk. We don't make enough of this asset or maintain it properly
15	1st class caravan/ camping site attracting tourists and helping local economy
20	Potential to make more of Fountain Cottage. Pass back to community ownership. Potential for affordable rented accommodation for new small local businesses
22	Heritage centre - asset to the village - continually improving and developing
32	Beautifully maintained and productive allotments
41	Boat Road, well maintained houses with local stone
42	St Cuthbert's Tce. Nice, well maintained Victorian Tce
52	MURC Hall well used for a variety of events and meetings - tidy and well maintained
61	Fountain tce - lovely terrace with well maintained frontage and green verge. Maintained with love by the residents
62	Community partnership base at Station House can be used to develop and improve community assets and involvement of community
17	open up railway for walkers etc
18	Improve access for all - former railway line open as a multi user path live up to Boe Rigg - people use this but find wine bottles
19	Improve access for all - multi user path circular

Negative features

21	Social Housing area has very bright lights. Advise better lights - help with dark skies, waste of energy too many bad lights
22	Desperately need parking - use the disused eyesore (Mart) to improve this providing space for locals and visitors to park
28	To have a dog warden come to Bellingham
29	Clear old disused buildings from this site to improve entry to the village
30	Drains need to be seen too. Much flooding in heavy rains
33	Poor path conditions, upgrade and make circular
42	mart Field - eyesore
43	Mart field - sports field using any money left from Tynedale DC old surplus
51	Car parking in Bellingham is bad - potential redevelopment as car park? 2) Mart site - sow with wildflower seeds for short term solution to unsightly site
52	Old gas shop/ yard and post shed eyesore and needs tidy
53	Fairsteads eyesore. Mud heap just left, Skate ramp not used and going to rust. Ministers idea for fruit trees good idea
54	develop into something
55	This builders yard is an eyesore <i>en route</i> to Hareshaw Linn, a proper walk
56	Hareshaw burn needs all the saplings removed and cleaned away to leave

- clear when heavy rains fall
- 57 Pennine way path needs attention - i.e. Between Jubilee Field to end (East)
- 58 Riverside walk needs draining also foliage cut back - it is a good round walk spoiled by the condition. Needs footpath assessment to sort it
- 59 For someone to take ownership of the problem of the bridge and get the guards to be painted
- 60 To prevent Raw sewage on to mill ground (private) from new sewage plant
- 60 To prevent spillage on to mill ground from new sewage working
- 61 Old mart field - eyesore attracting vandalism. Concerns for old residents using footpath to Westlands from Barclays bank. Solution - affordable housing, landscaping and lighting, ask youth clubs to do work and planting so they will ensure it stays good
- 62 Beautiful riverside walk, deteriorating due to lack of maintenance. Confusion on ownership and responsibility. Solution - make more of it to visitors and residents. Renew pathway - very muddy half the year. Information boards -rest boxes. Potential youth or young farmers project
- 63 Fountain cottage badly maintained. Poor appearance. Needs uplift and painting
- 64 Public toilets badly maintained and cleaned not an asset to village trying to attract more visitors
- 65 Shieling closed and likely to be pulled down. Some innovative thinking is needed to convert into affordable housing, revitalise rather than demolish
- 66 Garage and adjoining buildings run down and an absolute eyesore. Needs investment
- 67 Fairstead play area now in disrepair broken glass and graffiti littering the half pipe - not a nice place to allow children to play - suggest remove play equipment and half pipe and think of alternative use e.g. Orchard - green space (maintained)
- 71 Too much light pollution
- 72 Create more parking. Too much grass, costly to mow. Dangerous roads too many vehicles parked on road. Parking and residents would be big plus
- 74 Nobody wants that street light
- 76 Large crater appeared in Fountain Cottage car park approx 1 1/2 years ago. Several reports and photos later, still nothing. Does injury to person or property (car) need to be received before the issue is sorted?
- 77 Middle school - attainment levels are not good and they need to be excellent to attract families and businesses to the area and to raise the aspirations of pupils which seems at the minute to be very low
- 78 Road on to A68 from Bellingham - patch ups don't work for long. This is a main route for locals and tourists in and out of village
- 79 Permanent litter - cig ends, plastic bottle, broken glass, dog mess, this continues up the back lane to Westland's and the hurdle shed area in the mart field. Field is disgusting. The mart field wall is being slowly dismantled and is dangerous (see pic)
- 80 Road needs widening
- 100 Improve children's play area to better standards i.e. Falstone
- 111 Mart area is a blot on landscape. Needs developing

Bellingham exercise on the map



Charlton exercise on the map



Tarset with Greystead Parish Mapping exercise

There were 35 separate comments made at the Lanehead meeting, (14 positive features and 21 negative ones).

Summary of positive features:

- Sewage plant
- Community facilities
- Examples of positive development

Summary of negative features

- Roads – condition/ mud/ flooding/ ice/ GPS
- Parking
- Inappropriate development

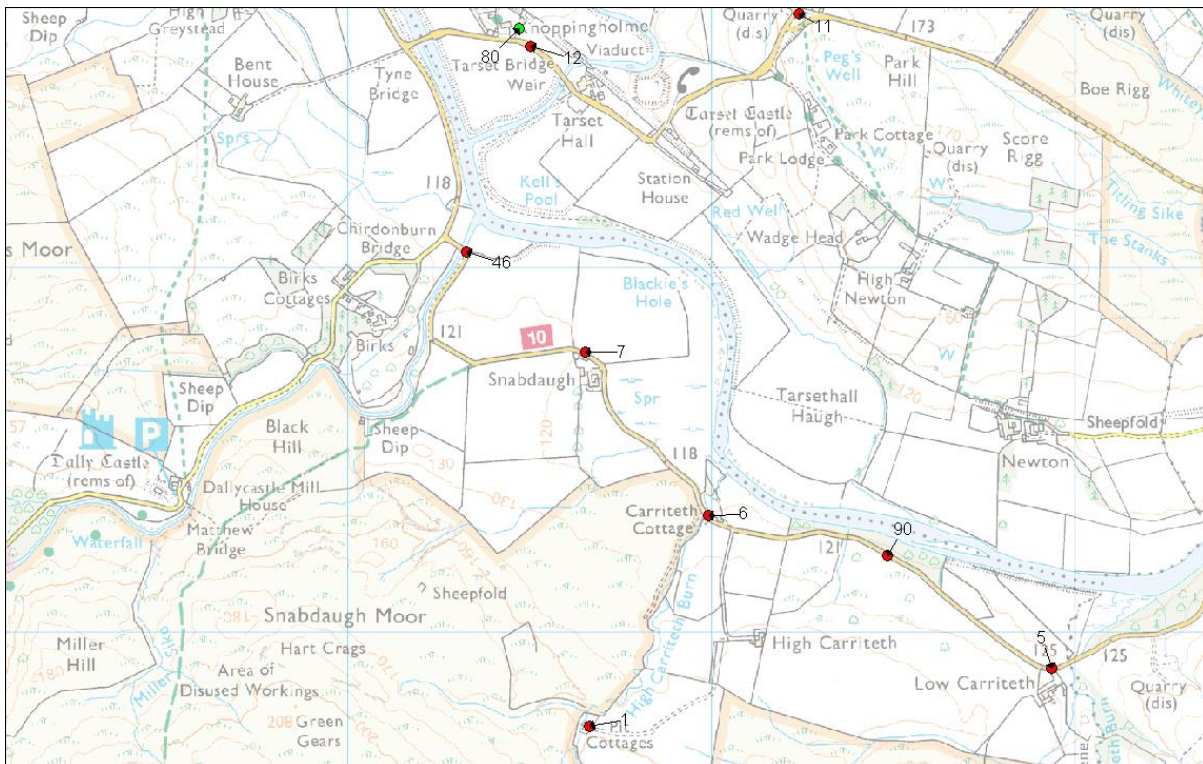
Positive features

Ref	Comment
1	Pub is essential for the area
2	Good design to extension of 18c building
5	Sewage works - brilliant job and sympathetically done
3	excellent, sympathetic treatment of sewage plant design
4	I feel this project wild Northumbrian tipi's and yurts is an example of a new business fitting in really well with the environment
6	sewage works of date
8	extension to village hall, very well done and in keeping with the old part of the hall. Also village hall garden - stone wall reflects that in the rural landscape
9	new house for young family
10	good land for local needs housing
16	work done to avoid damage to road by flooding
7	development of buildings to art residency
19	
72	Environmentally friendly development providing employment
80	Knoppingsholme has been sympathetically developed - 2 attractive holiday houses - land and farm buildings still used by the Moore family

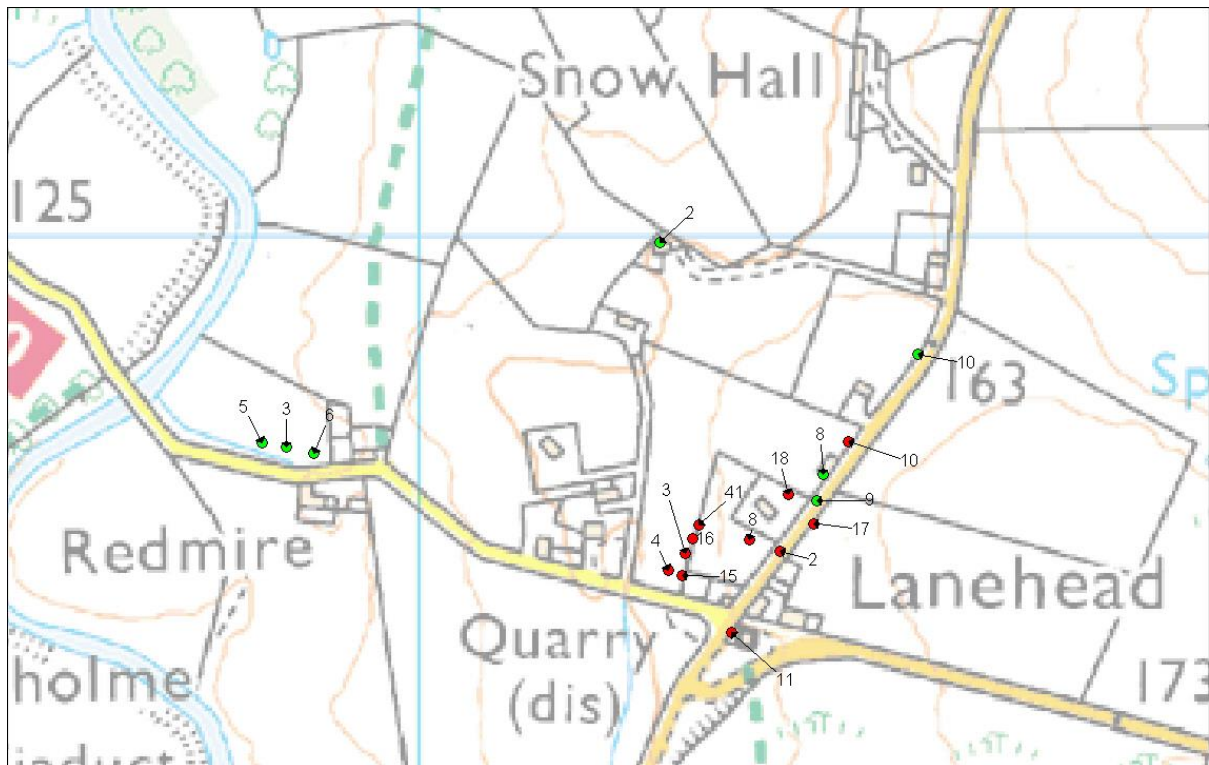
Negative features

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Water from the forest runs over the ditch at one side of road running onto road and freezing in winter. Highly dangerous and stops traffic using road |
| 2 | Horrible development being allowed. Not against development but size and style is totally out of character for National Park |
| 3 | Icy/ slippery dangerous bank on Donkleywood in Winter - from junction at Lanehead right down to Tarset Burn Bridge |
| 4 | Water running down road freezes and makes road v slippery - difficult to turn into road end or get up hill |
| 5 | Flooding, pot holes |

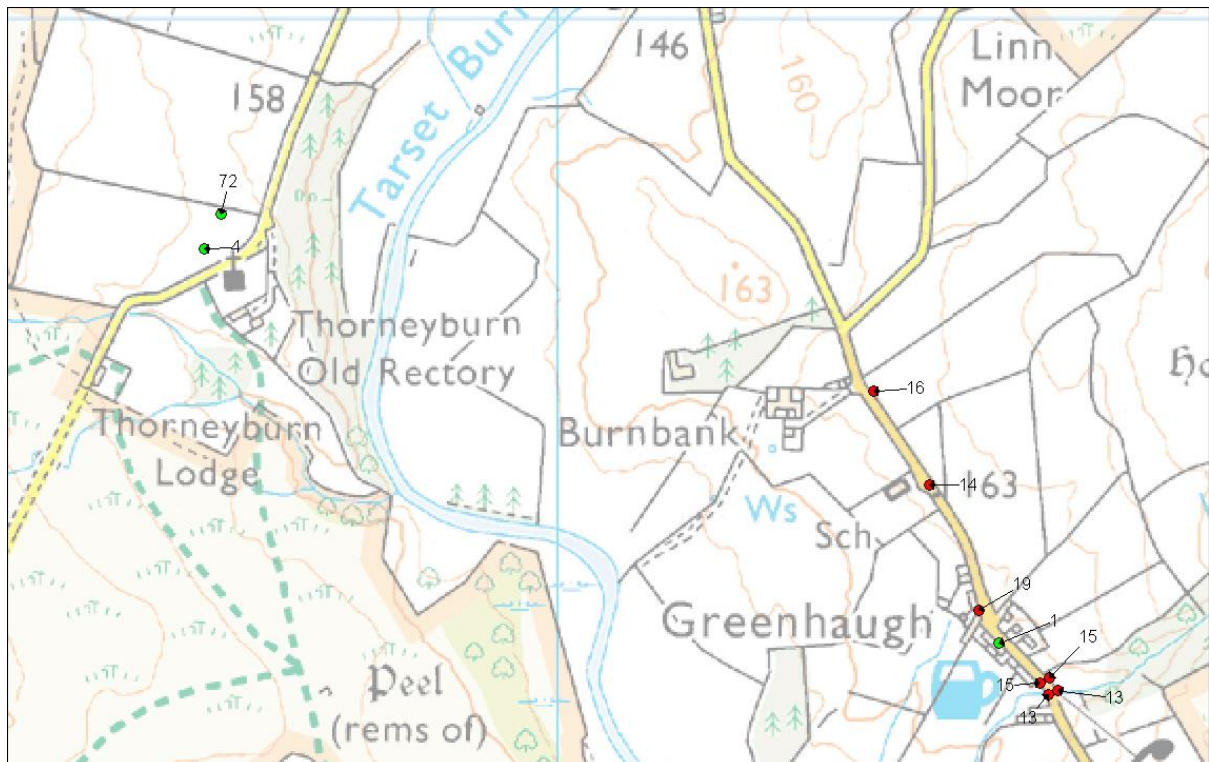
- 6 Flooding, pot holes
7 Flooding, pot holes
8 Huge house - as far as I can see so far, not in keeping with others in area -
much too big
10 Inappropriate development
11 Traffic issues - speed limit, motorbikes
13 Road often floods near bridge over Greenhaugh Burn - in the old days water
seeped into hillside, now it runs down road from bungalow
13 Road surface
14 Parking - causes verge opposite to be damaged
15 flooding and mud
15 water freezing on the bank causes a hazard extremely dangerous. Water runs
at all times and now we have several pot holes
16 Mud on road danger
17 Speed restriction through Lanehead
18 car park too small for village hall. Cars having to park down the road
19 Ugly eggs for sale sign without planning permission
46 Make GPS road restriction
90 Designate Hesleyside Road as GPS restricted road



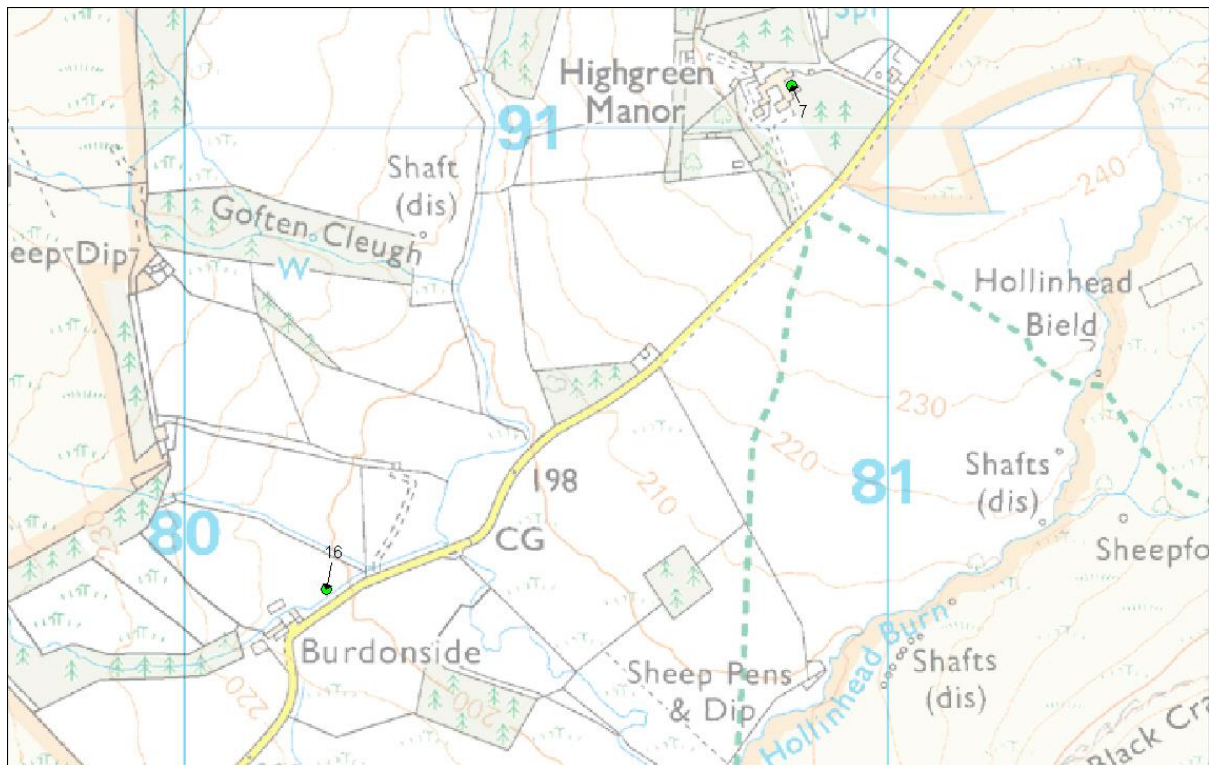
Lanehead exercise on the map



Greenhaugh exercise on the map



Tarset Parish exercise on the map



Wark Mapping Exercise

There were 22 separate comments made at the Wark meeting, (6 positive features and 16 negative ones).

Summary of positive features:

- Community facilities
- Recreation areas and allotments

Summary of negative features

- Petrol pumps
- Parking/ roads/ footpaths
- Litter/ toilets
- Empty houses and opportunity for development
- Bypass

Positive features

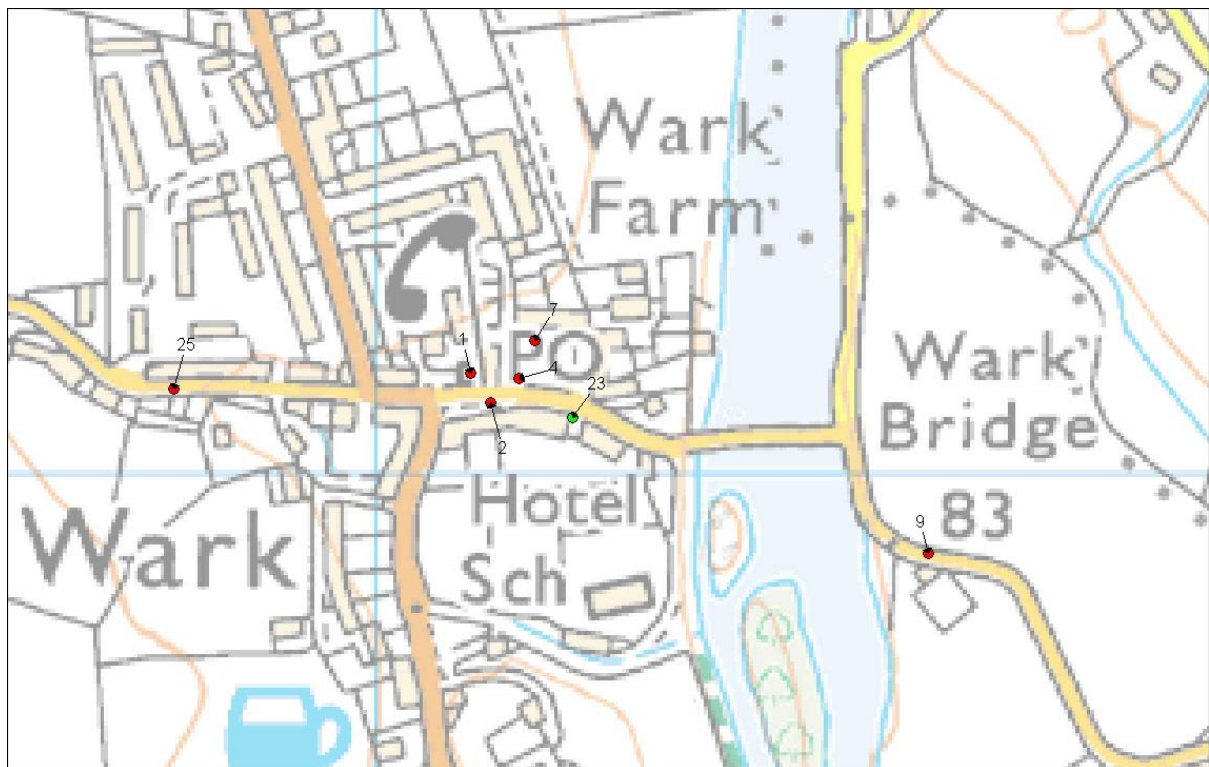
Ref	Comment
23	good village hall facilities
28	Picnic area 5*
30	Community club. Great asset to village even if not used enough. Would be very disappointing to loose

- 30 good village hall facility
- 39 Allotments
- 40 good recreational area

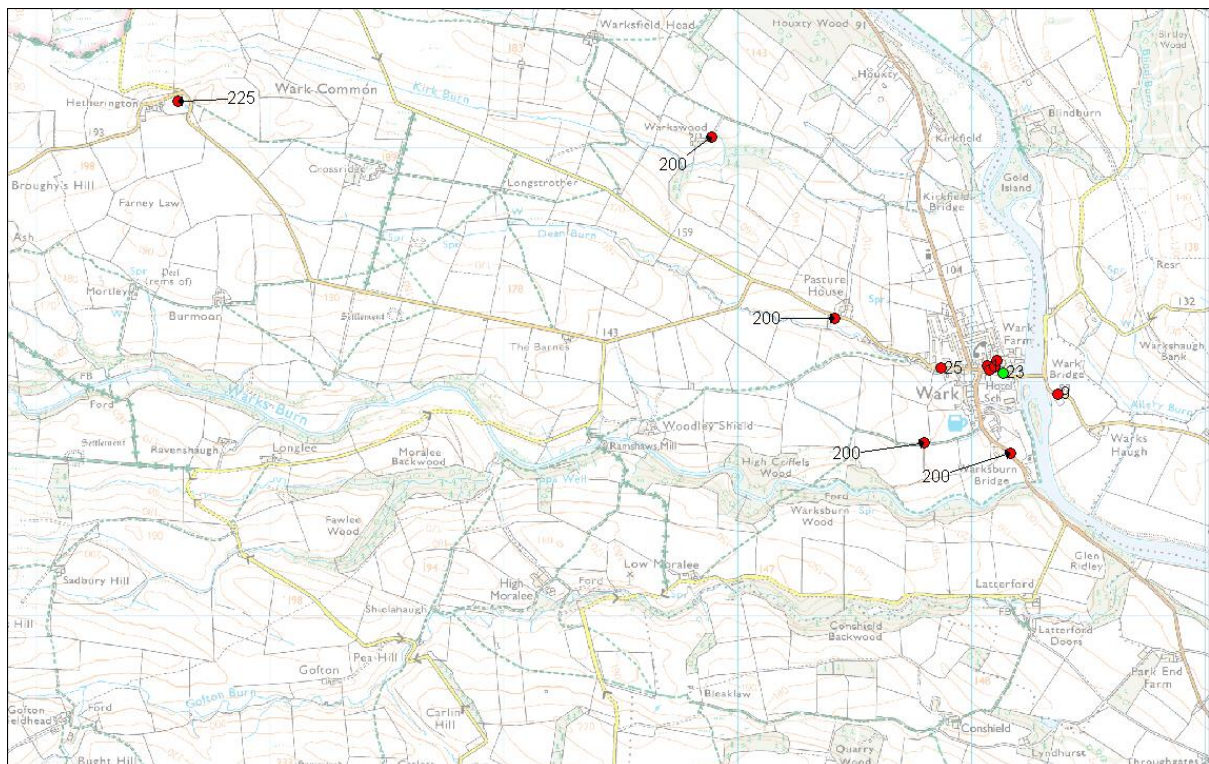
Negative features

Ref	Comment
1	Eyesore - urgently needs improvement
1	filling station needs developing
1	fuel pumps/ old garage needs tidying up
1	Filing station eyesore
1	Old filling station and shop is a very visible mess
2	Is planning not needed for this eyesore. Does nothing for village
4	Parking - not just around green but throughout the village
5	Empty houses in Stonehaugh (x2) need to be lived in as slowly falling down and unsightly
5	Community run bunkhouse
7	Poor state of road around village (although it's much better than it was!)
9	Safe path/ pavement access to play area over bridge
25	Cars park all along Storey and Elliott terraces making it dangerous for pedestrians and difficult for other vehicles
215	Lack of toilet facilities
223	11 Kern Green needs grass cut and garden tidied
225	Cattle grid to stop stock stragglers onto bends
200	Bypass is needed
215	Public litter bins to be emptied regularly they are left for weeks full of dog poo

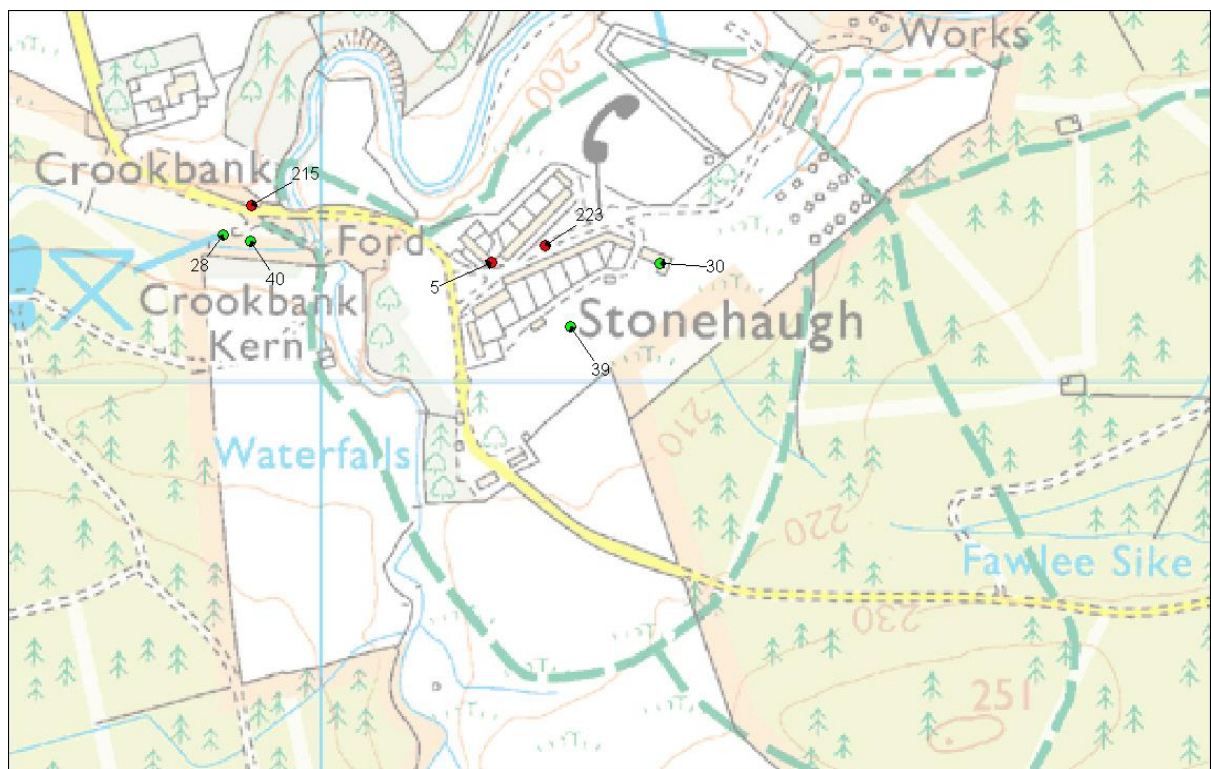
Wark exercise on the map



Wark Parish exercise on the map



Stonehaugh exercise on the map



5. Feedback from packs

Attendees were all provided with a pack which included a leaflet asking what was issues affected them/ where they live/ their community, and 7 cards to identify what the main issues were for broadband, employment, environment, housing and transport and two further cards asked what their favourite/ least thing about living/ working in the Parish was. These were taken away and completed following the events. In addition the Parish Councillors also took packs with them to hand out to people who were unable to make the events. There were 15 packs returned and 2 written responses were received.

What issues affect you

Bellingham

- Overflowing recycling bin and dumped rubbish at Heritage Centre
- Local after the locals. Tourism second.
- Cheaper private housing. Most is beyond local people
- We need extra Parking in the village. Nowhere for us locals to park when we go shopping - buy a piece of the Mart field and convert to Car Park. Buy some wildflower seeds and sow in the mart field. It is an eyesore for the village
- Car parking is quite an issue in Bellingham. How about marking parking spaces in the square?
- Lack of decent local play park in Bellingham
- Dog poo on streets and on the paths locally
- Gradual increase over last few years in lights at night - no more dark skies here
- Pathways e.g. riverside walk/ Pennine way - signposting as well as state of Pennine Way walk along riverside from Jubilee field to garage
- The rotten tree outside fire station in children's play area. Does it have to fall and kill someone or cause serious problems in road before it is removed?

Lanehead

- Protecting the environment
- Rural services (doctor/ transport)
- Planning applications in National Park land
- Help for people with planning - to know what they can do
- Local landlords with properties for rent charging a fortune and the houses being a very bad condition - some standing empty.
- Tourism always going ahead of local needs with any planning issues
- The cost of fuel for working people is a major problem in getting to work

Wark

- Broadband speed. I work from home often and the broadband needs to be upgraded
- Faster broadband
- The lack of broadband in the area of Stonehaugh
- Better mobile phone reception

- Lack of a footpath from Latterford to Wark. 200 yards needed along river would allow my son to walk to school safely. Plus it would make advertised walking routes safer for visitors to the area
- People who do not clean up after their dogs especially near the first school and the doctors surgery
- Dog dirt - this affects the 'Monday Club' when we strim the grass. Not nice!
- Infrequency and often non appearance of public transport
- Eyesore at the old petrol pumps

No specific location

- Reversing of refuse wagons onto private road causing damage (pot holes)

What issues affect where you live

Bellingham

- Planning permission given for building on Greenfield sites when there are brownfields in a derelict condition and need some form of upgrading
- Lack of decent local play park in Bellingham
- Dog poo on streets and on the paths locally
- Gradual increase over last few years in lights at night - no more dark skies here
- Continual reduction in ease of access at Countess Park, Redesmouth
- Christmas lunch was very good. Well organised

Lanehead

- We need tourists to create jobs to help with local economy and give young people the chance to live here and get a job
- Spoiling beautiful open spaces with ugly building projects e.g. Lanehead planning application
- Cost of fuel
- Ability to make the most of your assets
- Housing, housing, housing

Wark

- More work for young people
- Need a small industrial park in Wark with a range of sized units
- Affordable houses for the young to buy and start on the property ladder. These houses to be of a high quality with super insulation, eco type with solar panels etc
- Brick and stone too expensive, build in wood like Scandinavian types and plant a lot of pine and silver birch trees around
- To keep costs down the landowner must be given only 2 or 3 times the agricultural value of the land
- Site roads could be blocked paved to save costs
- Houses to be heated by wood pellet or log burning stove (Plenty of wood in Wark!)
- Litter bins not emptied often - 6 weeks over Christmas

- Large signs blocking the pavement
- In bad weather roads not gritted especially where the road is by the river
- Dog dirt - this affects the 'Monday Club' when we trim the grass. Not nice!
- Eyesore at the old petrol pumps
- Cars parking on pavements overnight
- The lack of any computer access at my farm - Middleburn, because my telephone is on the Humshaugh exchange which is too far from the farm to provide computer access
- A mobile phone will not work on the farm. To use it I must go to the end of the drive.

What issues affect your community

Bellingham

- Overflowing bins in town
- Dog fouling
- Dog poo on streets and on the paths locally
- Pavements dirty - poor reception for visitors
- A General deterioration in area doesn't encourage tourism
- Mess at Auction site - can this not be grazed or something and a decent fence put up instead of it looking like a prison
- Poor parking in town
- Parking! Shops will close if people cannot get parked
- Farms on road to Otterburn and along Redesmouth Road an eyesore
- Ex-Mart an eyesore
- Lack of decent local play park in Bellingham
- Gradual increase over last few years in lights at night - no more dark skies here
- Continual reduction in ease of access at Countess Park, Redesmouth

Lanehead

- Plan must cover Planning Policy and Control. We have been let down lately by some very unpopular planning decisions. We must stop this. Should try to have some influence on road clearance in bad weather - perhaps a coordinator in each area to liaise with Hexham. Should try to have some influence with Police towards noisy motorbikes and bad riding standards. The noise pollution from the majority of bikes is due to the fitting of aftermarket exhausts - this surely is an easy thing for police to enforce
- Deciding as a community any new housing/ shops/ and building that happens in and around the local community
- Over-riding any community when a major performance is made
- the age of people is too old, this area is becoming an area for the wealthy retired with no working families, it is too middle class

Wark

- Very poor mobile reception in and around Wark
- Broadband speed is very low (only 6Mb per sec)

- Very poor playground facilities for young children in Wark
- Minor roads are poorly maintained
- Emergency vehicles being sent over bridge by Satnav
- Lack of parking beside doctors and school
- Cars parking on pavements overnight
- Lack of affordable housing for young and elderly
- Dog dirt - this affects the 'Monday Club' when we trim the grass. Not nice!
- Eyesore at the old petrol pumps

Transport

Bellingham

- Price of petrol locally means people buy elsewhere, then local stations close
- State of roads
- The poor condition of many of the road surfaces
- cost and availability of public transport, now that kids are over 5 it's so much cheaper to run the car
- Sundays. Can't work in Hexham re no bus
- Very good but why do 2 buses from different companies leave at the similar times? Not necessary
- The high volume of cars, vans and heavy goods vehicles using narrow winding roads.
- I think our local bus service is adequate and there are many taxis serving the village. ADAPT offer transport for the disabled

Lanehead

- Non available
- We think that people living in rural environments as we do, expect to have to make their own transport arrangements
- To keep public transport running as a lot of older people live in rural area and moving away if driving becomes a problem is not an option where do you move to! Friends are an important part of our lives
- Maintaining the roads - including the minor roads - so that residents are confident to use cars without incurring damage by 'hitting' potholes
- Have an annual schedule to clear ditches - impacts on road conditions through flooding, debris etc when not cleared
- Consider distributing 'taxi tokens' for residents over a stated age to use (maybe monthly?) to allow access to local shops or to connect to buses. Much cheaper than trying to establish public transport in extreme rural areas! (Gateshead Council have/had a similar scheme for elderly residents)
- The cost of fuel, it is not worth going to work sometimes

Wark

- No responses

Written comments

Were it possible – I suspect not – reconstitution of the old North Tyne railway to Bellingham or Kielder would be a wonderful solution to much local transport needs. Such a line would earn its living transporting timber from Kielder to Hexham and beyond; steam trains running on the line would prove an enormous tourism draw and in addition provide regular transport to Hexham and Newcastle for the local population. Much local employment would also follow. This sadly is probably a pipe dream. The local bus services are probably adequate given the financial constraints on the operating companies. Whilst neighbourly assistance is always going to help in remoter areas there are clear constraints on the very possibility of living in a remote area if one does not have means of transport, as in any other of life's decisions there is an area that the individual has to take responsibility for and not the state or an arm of the state.

Environment

Bellingham

- Please don't spoil our outstanding beautiful area with windfarms
- Too many lights now at night
- Motion sensitive street lighting
- Litter
- A move back to weekly bin collections for rubbish
- tipping of garden waste into the burn
- Dead sheep up the Hareshaw Lynn has been reported several times since Jan 19th 2012. Same thing happened last year sheep was between 3rd and 4th bridge from Dec to Easter - though disintegrated - washed away - health hazard or what?
- For Kielder and the Environment Agency to time the release of excess water from the reservoir so as not to flood the low lying properties alongside the N Tyne and Hareshaw Burn
- dog poo everywhere
- Litter and dog poo bins to be picked up and emptied regularly
- loss of habitats e.g. Boggy area on jubilee field, scrub now grazed on riverside
- use of car for short journeys e.g. Village school
- Smokeless fuel

Lanehead

- Wind farms should never be allowed in National Park. Heat collectors on roofs are ruining the look of the buildings
- Protecting the rural beauty and not imposing wind turbines in beautiful spots
- Good local management of the area. People who live here and understand the area making choices for their local area and environment, places and people have to matter to the people who make decisions
- OK people seem to be managing their own areas very well - a beautiful place
- The cuts to the forestry commission budget

Wark

- No responses

Written comments

Taking the long view all environments within the UK are manmade. Cities and towns are obviously man made; it is arguable that even rural communities survive in a manmade, man managed environment. Historical deforestation, wood and field management, the building of wall and fences, mining, grazing of sheep, have all modified and even markedly changed the rural environment. The current state of affairs however is and has been stable for some hundreds of years and is an increasingly rare resource in our crowded island. Whilst man has had a large part to play in creating the current situation he should not attempt further change for change's sake. The emptiness and loneliness of the Northumbrian countryside is enormously valued by its many visitors and fewer residents. This very sparseness of population is now very rare and therefore something to be valued on not just a local basis but a national basis.

Employment

Bellingham

- Not good
- Lack of early transport
- Travelling - particularly for women with children. Cuts into hours of paid work and eats into earned income
- no public transport for shifts on Sundays
- Are the people on benefits really looking for work??
- The actual number of people actively looking for work in Bellingham or are the majority no longer wishing to work the land like their parents. Wishing to work in bigger towns and cities. Where there is night life and dept stores. There are job opportunities here e.g. 2 cooks in the school. 1 bar staff at the golf club

Lanehead

- We are not aware of an unemployment problem in this area
- Better than 40 years ago but travelling is very expensive for both people to travel and new business to set up
- Cost of transport
- Accommodation
- More rural businesses?
- We need more small business in this area, but how do we get them to come here

Written comments

Local employment is only ever going to provide a modest proportion of jobs in the area. Service industries of various types, some forestry and land management jobs, small numbers of farming jobs and modest numbers of local small manufacturing jobs will in my view continue to provide the bulk of local employment opportunity in the area. As in nearly every other rural community throughout the land however large numbers of local people will find their employment out with the local area.

Broadband

Bellingham

- Lack of speed
- We need cheaper, quicker broadband
- Really fast broadband costs
- Schools and businesses as well as many private users all use broadband the only problem being the speed
- Access ok for us
- It needs to be affordable
- It is available from various providers

Lanehead

- Do not have a problem with broadband at present
- Very important as we live in such a rural area, travel is expensive and everyone needs to be kept up to date with things regardless of age. Also for rural business
- Speed, reliability and cost - too expensive, controlled by BT who can make your connection worse when you're not with them
- That the speed is poor

Wark

- Where there is broadband in the rural areas it is still very slow

Written comments

This is in reality entirely in the hands of the providers. It would of course be good to have better broadband speeds – it would also be great to have better mobile phone access. In the long run I think that better mobile phone access, especially 3G and 4G, through which I see an increasing number of city dwellers accessing the internet, would provide the cheaper and more useful investment in the area. I suspect that one or two strategically placed mobile transmitters would make all the difference to the area as a whole. Many small businesses rely heavily on good mobile communication; this is not easily possible in our area at present.

Housing

Bellingham

- Need cheaper housing
- Ok - but we need more affordable housing for YOUNG LOCALS also need an old peoples/ sheltered accommodation. E.g. Abbeyfield that was at the Shielling. Disgusted to think the Shielling is no longer in use
- pavements - stop building estates without them, some people actually walk around! (Redesmouth Ct, Redesmouth Rd, Briar Hill...)
- At present the www states there are 58 properties available to part buy, buy or rent in Bellingham. Some terraced, some semi, some detached. With 13 more homes (some

affordable) proposed in Briar Hill and a further 50-60 on the mart site I fail to agree on a housing shortage! There is a shortage of money

Lanehead

- Nice houses in this area are expensive as it is good area. This is a fact of life throughout the country. Cheap housing is available in Bellingham which is only 4 miles away
- Housing is not affordable for young people or people on lower incomes, also the National Parks are less than helpful 'in my experience'
- availability, cost, ages of population rising, not affordable for average working families and starters
- That private landlords charge high rents for poor housing.
- No low cost housing in this area
- No housing for working families

Written comments

Lanehead

Housing is an emotive issue, but concerns are not specific to North Tynedale. Everywhere there are concerns regarding the affordability of housing for young first time buyers. The issue is essentially one of population density and competition for housing, compounded in recent years by a financial bubble in significant part fuelled by a self fulfilling expectation of, and speculation on, ever rising property prices. If we desire that the area, and in particular the National Park, retains its feel of emptiness and open spaces, then that desire is incompatible with simultaneous desire to provide significant new housing. Whilst renovation of ruined buildings, a modest degree of infill building and rarely new build in non infill sites might all be acceptable in given situations large inroads into housing needs could only be made by large building projects; in the end new residents would have destroyed that which they sought.

The nature of both land use and city life has changed dramatically in living memory. Agriculture no longer requires large numbers of labourers; the small dwellings lived in as multi-occupier households in the past are now improved beyond recognition and house but single families. Much of the local population derives its income not from the land but from work based in nearby large towns and organisations. This pattern is endlessly repeated up and down the country and is not particular to our area. As times change, as employment opportunities change, then so must expectations and behaviour. This has been the case and the pattern throughout history; we have no reason to suppose that it is all different now.

It is clear that local employment opportunities will remain at a moderate level for the foreseeable future, and that retirees and those whose work is based outwith the locality will continue to form a significant part of the population. I suggest that it is unwise to attempt to swim against the tide of history. The changes that have happened so far have resulted in undoubted improvements in existing housing stock and some demographic changes; similar changes have occurred in given areas of our cities and are inevitable.

I feel that the current policies in the National Park are entirely appropriate for the area; I suspect that modest further building in the larger settlements of Bellingham and Wark could be achieved without a problem.

Wark

There is no doubt that areas such as Wark, Bellingham and others are in need of affordable homes for local people to buy and live in to get them on the property ladder. The fundamental issue with affordable housing for rent is that these types of properties do not get local people on the property ladder which is a motivational and aspirational concept for people. Now is the time for a range of new homes to be built using modern building techniques with single skin highly insulated timber frames with a timber cladding but most importantly in keeping with the Northumbrian countryside. These houses do not need to be poor quality to be cheap they simply need to be built with a budget in mind. We need to foster a new opportunity for people to be able to get on the property ladder and this type of modern housing is a real way to solve this issue. Once people are on the property ladder it is a lot easier to move up. It is the getting on the ladder that is the difficult part. With schemes such as these consideration also needs to be given to how the schemes are built. Should it not be local homes for local people built by local firms? Sites should not be hived off to national contractors it should be that sites are evenly split into say 4 or 5 per local builder if it's a site of any reasonable size. This way the local houses are providing local jobs. How many times do we all see sizable projects being farmed out to national companies with contractors who come from York, Manchester and other places. We all want to see the improvement to the places we live and with construction playing a big role in the Tynedale area this would seem to be a great way to stimulate jobs and ultimately prosperity in the community.

Least favourite thing

Bellingham

- Parking in Bellingham
- Hopeless play parks in Bellingham. This was going to be addressed when my son was in a pram. He's now 8 ½
- Litter & filth. Dog poo not picked up. Dog bins not emptied enough. Not enough litter bins and bins not emptied enough.
- Government and County targets which insist Bellingham grows to town proportions. There is nothing wrong with being a rural village
- The loss of the mart, loss of the hunt both of which brought revenue to the village
- The folk driving the expansion of Bellingham have some sort of financial investment and are always looking to increase their turnover/ income

Lanehead

- National Park policy of allowing modern looking dwellings in Park area. All future building should be in keeping with existing styles and materials
- Nothing
- The granting of planning permission to build in the hamlet of Lanehead
- Cost of living

- Heating, transport - cost of local fuel
- The cost of getting to work

Favourite thing

Bellingham

- I live outside village (town) and I love the view and tranquillity
- The beautiful countryside
- Our renowned dark skies
- Peace and quiet of rural area and safety. (general feeling that you and/ or kids are ok out and about)
- Peaceful friendly community
- The sense of community and safety
- Access to a variety of towns and cities

Lanehead

- Bellingham Golf Club
- Walks in Sidwood
- The Holly Bush Inn
- Natural Beauty and peace and quiet of the area
- The views
- Quietness, peace, beautiful, outdoor activities, community active, access to forest, lucky to work a mile from home
- The landscape is beautiful and walking is great
- The peace and remoteness of the National Park in Northumberland
- The people
- People are friendly and helpful when you need them to be