

Norham Community Workshop Report

10th July 2017

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Introduction

The Norham Community Workshop was held at Norham Village Hall on 10th July 2017 and was attended by 46 members (see below).

Ian McCreath	St Cuthberts Church
Alistair McPhee	St Cuthberts Church
Eddie Hall	Resident
Sandra Hall	Resident
George Straughen	Norham Parish Council
Victoria Craig	Norham Parish Clerk
Tamsin Bapty	English Heritage
Ian Bapty	Inspired North East - Diocese of Newcastle
Rob Kelsey	Norham Church
Graham West	Resident
Gail Hek	Resident
Moira Graham	Part Time P/N
Joan Lawson	Village Hall Committee
Liz Cameron	Resident
Sue Churchill	Resident
Linda Dowdall	The Masons Arms
J Tomlinson	The Masons Arms
Liz Towner	Resident
John Towner	Resident
Sheena Martinez	Resident
James Blythe	Norham Parish Council
Martha Andrews	Norham and Ladykirk History Society
David Heywood	History Society
Janet Heywood	Band. History Society
Jackie Dansie	Horncliffe Parish Councillor
Sue Neville-Taylor	History Society
Chris Neville-Taylor	History Society
Dennis Pereira	Resident
Duncan Archbold	Norham Snooker Club
Lynsey Calver	Norham 1st Rainbows
D Watkin	Resident
Gibson JR	Resident
Jane Howell	Resident
Liz Prentice	Resident
Terry Harris	Church and Village Hall
Peter Thoday	Resident
Kelsie Cox	Resident

JLH thomas	Myself
Frances Shepherd	Horncliffe
Tessa Archbold	Resident
Jim Greenwood	Resident
Lynne Ellerby	Resident
Sarah Watkinson	Resident
Anthony Watkinson	Resident
Ella Conway	Resident
Heather Lough	Ladykirk and History Society

Apologies and input were received from the following:

Neil Robertson
Janet Young

The day was facilitated by Anne Lawson, and reported by Tony Kirsop.

The findings within are based purely on member contributions, and the purpose of the report is to document and evidence the future direction of the group.

Background

George gave an introduction to the evening in his role as chair of the Parish Council. One of the aims of the PC is to retain the services that are available such as the shops surgery and school.

The Parochial Church Council approached the Parish Council who would like to get the church more involved with the community. A way to do this is to get more people to either visit or move to the village and rather than those 2 groups decide in isolation it was thought that the best way was to consult the village about what the people who live and work in the village like or don't like.

From the prospect of the Church Ian asked how the Church can add to the life of the village to assist the village in any way that it can. It does not wish to compete with others but how it may improve its facilities and be more of a service to the whole of the community and not just the congregation. It is important that the church be used much more than it is and it is ideas that can support that notion and how it can enhance the village further.

Tonight's event will look to gather some ideas to inform the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council of the views of people connected to the village.

Community Services

Anne summarised some of the community services that Norham has to offer. A more detailed handout was also circulated and can be seen in the appendices.

- St Cuthbert's Church
- Parish Council
- Village Hall & Clubs (£1k pa from English Heritage for volunteering at Castle)
- Shops
- GP Surgery & dispensing chemist
- Pubs
- Public toilets
- Village Green
- Local Trades
- Norham St Ceowulf Cof E First School - Ofsted rated Outstanding
- Housing Association homes (Johnny Johnson & Two Castles)
- Residential Care Home (Birch Hill)
- Post Office Van (2 hours five days per week)
- Fish and Chip van Thursday evening
- Library van (Wednesdays, fortnightly)
- Car maintenance garage (no fuel)
- Village website www.norham.org
- Broadband

Workshop Contributions

The participants were then split into groups where they were asked to consider the community services of Norham and whether

- the community is concerned about how to retain any of these services, or
- if there were identifiable gaps in provision that the community might like to fill.

Their thoughts were then fed back into the whole of the group and discussed.

Group 1:

Preserve services that are already in the village

Panto

Xmas party for pensioners

Promote bingo/local events

Snooker Club

Boule

Scarecrows

Boat Race

Football for children

Promoting local business

Extra newsround left in shops

Play park

Group 2:

There is a photographer in the village

We must preserve full range of surgery services in Norham. It is sometimes difficult to get a doctor's appointment in the village

An evening bus at say 930pm from Berwick would be welcome#

Could footpaths from Norham Castle to Horncastle be kept in better condition. Remove fallen trees for example

Raise the birth rate to keep school going

Resist conversion of dwellings to secondary homes

Provide "wrap around" care for the local school

Reconstruct Norham Old Tower as a landmark tourist attraction & possibly museum & holiday home

Could opening times of baker be made better perhaps by putting them on the website. In general could times of services be made more clear including payment facilities in local shops

Make more of Turner connection in church - perhaps an annual art exhibition

Convert old railway line from Norham to Berwick into a cycle path with the assistance of Sustrans and encourage cycling generally

They play darts in the Masons Arms

Keep the music sessions going in the pub

Group 3:

Retain

General Store - cashpoint

All community services listed

Bus service

Newsletter

Playground

Gaps

Car parking plan

Mobile phone signal

Parish council - surgery

Updating of web site

Group 4:

Improved bus service (north & south)
Improve information of what's on - welcome pack - new residents/visitors, extended newsletter, village hall timetable
Redecorate village hall - more neutral
Church - better lighting and heating
Use church more - concerts, change seating, remove pews
Castle bank - trim bushes, wildflower meadows
More use of castle
Upkeep of footpaths in and outwith village
Riverside footpath to Horncastle - maintenance of footpaths
Voluntary maintenance teams/work parties
Communication between clubs
Schools - used to be much more involved in the community
Involve younger people
Keep phone box - use it. Need because bad mobile signal
mobile/broadband
First responders - better ambulance cover
Street lamps to go off at midnight
Better car parking for locals & tourists (esp castle street
30 mile signs above castle & hill top
Speeding problem in the village
Petanque terrain - plan for future of the club
Activities for younger people
Stop use of herbicides and pesticides
Dementia signage e.g to the church toilets etc
Stop farmers spraying next to housing school - drifting over children
More benches - regular intervals
Cyclepath to Horncliffe along river
Orchard community garden
Using fruit in people's gardens that would go to waste
Local market on green

Group 5

Library bus is under threat
Permanent post office
Mobile phone mast
Reliable & full fibre broadband
Keep the doctors surgery
Keep the village shop
Replace trees when taken down
Modernise church facilities to enable wider use and all year round
signage/directions to church
Maintain church building

Promote & invite artistic/historical aspects of village (connection between church castle & Durham)

Make more of the castle

Concerns re limited public parking available

Improve village connection with school - need to keep school

Promote use of village hall, advertise what's on & attract new groups & events

Ensure church & village hall are not competing

Community orchard

Retain pubs

Dog waste bins

Litter pick ups

Retain advent windows initiative

Pantomime

Retain living nativity

Level of affordable housing

Group 6

Poor

- Lack of village support for local business - concern we might lose them
- Village hall refurbished
- Notice board etc kept up to date
- Lack of facilities for visitors (specific proposal re parking)
- Traffic entry & exit of village & within village (traffic calming) e.g. narrowing
- Slip road closing
- Footpaths - poor condition (for locals and visitors)
- Map of walks
- Tree planting? (but good work has been done)
- Bus rail co-ordination - good to have buses for village
- Open gardens idea
- Village meeting annually to report on progress

Group 7

Concerned about retaining

- Surgery
- Bus service
- Shops
- School
- Church
- Footpaths
- Toilets
- Pubs
- Road surfaces
- Castle maintenance
- Signs
- Library van

Gaps

- More and better info for newcomers
- Footpath list/map
- Better signage to church & castle
- Improved tourism literature
- Turner promotion
- History of net fishing
- Better use of jubilee field

Community Services Workshop Summary

Anne summarised the feedback in the workshop. this should be read in conjunction with the full notes and the supplementary contributions (below):

<p>Priorities (in no particular order)</p>
<p>Preserving all of the existing services, particularly but not exclusively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shop ● Doctor ● Library bus ● Toilets (for locals, deliveries to businesses and tourists alike) ● School ● Bus service ● Pubs
<p>Communicate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote local events within the community ● Canvas and understand the needs of younger people
<p>Updating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Play park ● Pitch ● Petanque
<p>Resist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Further second homes ● Yellow lines ● Speeding through the village
<p>Develop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wraparound Care at the school ● More bus services, including a Berwick night bus ● Information pack for newcomers ● Affordable Housing ● Dementia signage ● Cycle path along the old railway line
<p>Improve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordination of buses with Berwick rail service ● Village parking ● Mobile phone signal ● Broadband speed ● Website ● Use of the church buildings, complement the village hall ● Number of postcodes and their value on satnav

Maintain

- Footpaths
- Replace trees

Introduce

- Dog litter bins
- Litter picks
- annual village meeting

Supplementary Contributions

Additionally written input was received from the following, this is included in the main report along with pen portraits of everyone who attended the first meeting.

Neil Robertson

JR Heywood

Janet Young

James Tomlinson

Joan Lawson

Martha Andrews

Tourism Offer

Anne summarised the local tourism offer:

- St Cuthbert's Church and churchyard (memorials)
- St Cuthbert's Summer Fair
- Walking Trail
- History
- Turner
- Castle (Flodden 500 EcoMuseum, historic link to Durham, English Heritage)
- Public toilets
- Proximity to Cheviot Hills and Coast AONB
- The River Tweed (Tweed Forum)
- The Border
- Ladykirk & Norham Bridge
- Newbiggin Dean and Viaduct
- Village Green & War Memorial
- Holiday lets (I found two in village, eight additional in wider area)
- Church provides ancestral History book
- Ancestral Tourism (digital archives, existing and new)
- Fishing
- Cycling
- Bike Fest
- Village Website www.norham.org
- Bed & Breakfasts / Public Houses

The participants were then split into groups once more and asked to consider the impacts of encouraging Tourism to boost our local economy:

- How could tourism boost our local economy?
- Does this raise concerns in the community?
- How might we encourage tourists to appropriately enjoy what the village of Norham has to offer?

Workshop Feedback

Group 1

Link castle to historic event & put event on in the grounds (re-enactments)

Visitor Centre - Turner, History Society

Picnic benches along rivers

Pedwell - Turner interpretation

Festivals

Map outside village hall

Aerial footage/pictures at the castle
Local guides to take tours
Audio guides in the castle

Group 2

Install a brown tourist sign pointing to the church (as in Ancroft) - there is a small finger post already
There can be too many signs - they clutter the place up
Promote knowledge of the village by all possible means
Promote engagement of the village with its attractions - it is important to link things together
Make the stories behind the monuments and dates better known eg a Turner Trail, St Aidan on the way to Lindisfarne
Make more of the concerts - publicise them more
Install re-enactments of historical events
Co-operate with English Heritage more and vice versa
Morph Church concert group into a wider organisation to include musical evenings,
The Masons Arms, and concerts in the castle eg brass bands or dancing
Arrange an art festival to link with Turner
Use professional services to clear fallen trees along footpath from Norham to Horncliffe and also improve the stile at Norham which is about to collapse
Have son et lumiere at castle
Reopen the railway station museum

Group 3

Boost

- Bringing in people to spend money

Encourage tourists

- Signage
- Maps - walking, village points of interest, boards, trails
- Information in TIC (Berwick/Wooler)
- Maintaining appearance of village
- Enter Northumbria in Bloom
- Garden trail, Vintage Tractors, Industrial show
- Competition on Jubilee Field
- Audio equipment - English Heritage, Castle

Group 4

Dont spoil it

Something at castle for people to come to

Visitor Centre - history

Turner Trail - do up footpaths - Turner Exhibition

Signage in and out village

Open gardens - perennial plants for when daffodils die off

Performances in castle - English Heritage

Medieval fayre on the green
Tourist information - leaflets, posters
Promote app for walk around the castle
Better facilities for cyclists
Promote fishing and village walks
Promote river - other uses - hire canoes
River trips
Craft shop
Farmers market
Improve parking facilities
Tourist website
church - Tourist information centre
Community buy out of vic
Cross border links- signage on Scottish side
Flower festival in church
Concerts in church - rock?
Advent windows
Lighting up castle in different colours
Christmas tree festival in church at Christmas
Arboretum - re-wild with trees
Willow - living bird hide
Fireworks at castle
Pollination Street

Group 5

Regular cutting of grass areas
Annual Turner Day including exhibitions. Walks, films, photography, food drinks
Turner trail - footpaths
Brown signage for church from main road
Multiple signage from Village green
Historic records from village residents (History Society), verbal, written. Photos
- History exhibition
Gillies netting history
Art exhibitions including photographic
Farmers markets
Promoting church & village hall as performance spaces
Develop as a cycle hub
Develop walking trails
Castle events - sports day, jousting, picnic, open air theatre, battle reenactment
Walter Scott connection with Marmion
Hog roast in the castle grounds
Car parking

Negatives

Increase in people & cars

Percentage of people do not want this
Churchyard maintenance - have gravestones with yellow tape - unsightly
Neglected properties, eyesores - empty properties giving a bad impression

Group 6

Increase trade in local businesses
House prices increase as it becomes a more desirable place to live
Promote green tourism
Improve bus and rail services
People will stay for longer & spend more
Local taxi sustainability
Put infrastructure in place to cope
Promote Turner trail within & around the village
Photo walking tour around the village
Engaging more with school - Local Art
Village or Town?
Increase in numbers - increase in crime
Utilise the castle more effectively (closed 6 months a year - weddings, concerts etc)
Birdwatchers hide
Reinstate Pedwell Sheil
Visitors Centre

Group 7

Safe place for tourists to leave equipment/bikes
Better use of the castle shop
Church could be used as an information point/museum display
Living history displays at church/castle (enactments)
Fishing history (a smokery)
Turner Trail (cross border)
More cycling events
Open Gardens scheme
Scarecrow festival
More concerts
Encourage day visitors as well

Concerns

More tourists = parking problems
Second homes/holiday lets (40 in the village)
No yellow lines

Mentioned late on

Maintenance of Tractor Run in March and the Ride out in August.
Important to add that village was a point the vikings came to, robert the bruce came here. So much history.

Thoughts were then fed back into the whole of the group and discussed.

Workshop Summary

Anne summarised the feedback in the workshop. This should be read in conjunction with the full notes and the supplementary contributions (above):

Priorities (in no particular order)	
Castle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shop ● Events ● Information Point ● Reenactments ● work more closely with English Heritage 	Marketing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategy ● Promotion ● Guides ● Use tourist information centres around the county / Scotland ● Cohesion of offer
Visitor Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● @ the Church? ● @ the Castle? ● in the Pub? ● include nature 	Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funding - Tate Britain ● Funding Applications - Martha Andrews ● English Heritage - Tamsin Bapty
History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Turner Trail ● History trail ● Leaflets ● Interpretation boards ● Capture current / previous inhabitants memories and photos ● Monuments ● Key Dates ● Stories ● Reenactments ● Reivers ● Railway Station museum ● Vikings ● Robert the Bruce ● Cromwell 	Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parking ● No yellow lines ● Bus and rail services ● Taxi service ● Ensure adequate infrastructure to support increase in visitor numbers ● Address potential crime / fear of crime issues ● Signage - to the village / within village / maps (not too many) ● Clearing footpaths ● Address empty / derelict properties ● Maintain graveyard ● Grass cutting / verges
Cycling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cycle store 	Village <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trails

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promotion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Green Tourism ● More cooperation between Norham and Ladykirk
Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scarecrow Festival ● Farmers markets ● Art festival 	Visitors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Day visitors ● Residential visits ● Engage with local schools
Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concerts ● Promote use 	Success Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase trade in the village ● Increase in house prices ● Improved services for residents
Village Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote use 	
Nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bird watching ● Hide in netsmen's shiel ● include in visitor centre ● river trips / boating ● fishing ● Northumbria in Bloom 	

Next Steps

Once the Parish clerk and the Chairs of the Parish Council and Parish Church Council have checked the report, it will be circulated to the full group.

It is proposed that everyone is invited to participate in a working group to prioritise and formulate action plans.

Anne stressed that there is currently no dedicated resource; either in the form of money or people to make the findings of this report a reality. It is therefore important that the community identify how they would like to take the findings forward and harness those offers of support given both from external agencies, individuals and from volunteers within the community.

That potential support includes the NCC Community Regeneration Team on request.

CONTACT US

The Social Enterprise Team is here to support the development of your Social Enterprise in the future. We are here to support you with:

- Strategy Days in future years
- Strategic Planning
- Business Planning
- Governance Review
- Cash Flow development
- Legal Structures
- Funding Advice
- Signposting to other key professionals
- Coaching

Please contact us when you need us.

Anne Lawson anne.lawson@northumberland.gov.uk 07917 266866

Tony Kirsop tony.kirsop@northumberland.gov.uk 07917 266864

Iain Hedley iain.hedley@northumberland.gov.uk 07747 473687

Appendices - Community Services

Our Community

450 residents in 300 households

Community Services

St Cuthbert's Church

- Village history & welcome pack to new residents
- Sunday services weekly
- Morning and afternoon prayer daily
- Baby & toddler worship Wednesdays
- Junior church weekly
- Church choir
- Drop in for Coffee monthly
- Summer Fair
- Regular Concerts (various genres)

Parish Council

Village Hall & Clubs (£1k pa from English Heritage for volunteering at Castle)

- Angling
- Art Class
- Ballet
- Book Club
- Brass Band
- Brownies
- Cubs (temporarily suspended)
- Guides (temporarily suspended)
- History society
- Junior singers
- Mother's Union
- Norham Tree Planting
- Norham Industrial Show (annual)
- Petanque (pitch)
- Pigeon Club (clubhouse)
- Pilates (temporarily suspended)
- Poetry Club
- Rainbows
- Running Club
- Scottish Dancing
- Scouts (temporarily suspended)
- Simply Slimming

- Table Tennis
- Tap Dancing
- Village Band
- Walk
- Women’s Institute
- Zumba (temporarily suspended)

Shops

- Bakery
- NISA
- Butcher / fishing shop
- Castle Gunmakers

GP Surgery & dispensing chemist

Pubs

- Masons Arms
- Victoria

Public toilets

Village Green

- Quoits
- Play equipment

Local Trades

- Building
- Plumbing
- Roofing
- Heating
- Tree Surgery

Norham St Ceowulf Cof E First School - Ofsted rated Outstanding

Housing Association homes (Johnny Johnson & Two Castles)

Residential Care Home (Birch Hill)

Post Office Van (2 hours five days per week)

Fish and Chip van Thursday evening

Library van (Wednesdays, fortnightly)

Car maintenance garage (no fuel)

Village website www.norham.org

Broadband

Potential

Galagate very central to the village which was granted planning permission last year for a development of the steading into 14 dwellings 2 commercial units and 9 new builds. It is currently for sale, and has been for some time. See

<https://www.georgefwhite.co.uk/properties/galagate-farm-norham/>