

PONTELAND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

CONSULTATION EVENTS APRIL 2016 – PROJECTS ANALYSIS

All the comments from the drop in sessions in April have been put together in this analysis, giving the topic, agree or disagree and individual comments on each.

Community Facilities:

A Community Hub: To explore the viability of creating a 'community hub' at a central location in Ponteland. This could provide both facilities for the wider community including the youth:

Agree: 8

Comments:

This could be Meadowfield

Distinction between Hub and Community Space not clear

Community seems to be split up into different areas! Surely library, shops, community centres, GP surgeries should be in one area

Fantastic idea! More facilities will bring families with children to the area

What about improving Merton Way

Excellent idea

Library and community hub at Merton Way

This must be where the library sits

Not sure I agree with this point

No valid reason to relocate the library

Improve shopping facilities – Merton Way/Broadway

New swimming pool/leisure pool with 2 slides and soft play

Community Hub in the current library site to encompass a library, council offices, coffee shop and CAB and other voluntary organisations

Leave the shops where they are and improve their state

Emphatically agree. A community hub could be desirable (but not essential) on or near the present library site

Community hub & library should be situated on the EXISTING library site which is accessible to all of Ponteland

Ideas such as a joint library, internet café, community space could be explored:

Agree: 6

Comments:

Yes please

Agree – use the library!

Joint library etc – part of the hub on the present library site

Library needs to stay in village

No, improve what is there and leave the library where it is

Merton Way needs redevelopment. We need to keep a village centre
Would not a community hub include library, internet, cafe and community space.
On the existing site

Community Toilet scheme to be developed in collaboration with local shops and community facilities:

Agree: 4

Comments:

Toilets – community work well elsewhere. Older population, more need!!
Why has the original one been closed? Who will monitor it to see that misuse is not going to take place
The refurbished toilet facilities are a great improvement, but further provisions could be made available in a new community hub
Good idea

YOUNG PEOPLE

Explore and promote activities for younger people:

Agree: 8

Comments:

Creating more outside spaces for the younger children
Develop the Leisure Facilities in line with other areas in Northumberland
There needs to be more community areas for under 16's
What activities are in mind? I cannot support what is not listed
The youth needs facilities

“Youth Ambassador” from the Community Partnership to promote young people’s needs:

Agree: 4

Comments:

Very important point for the future of the village
The youth of today will play a key role in helping to shape the future of Ponteland
Great idea!
Young people are key

HEALTH

To seek to secure additional GP services in Ponteland to meet the needs of local residents:

Agree: 10

Comments:

Agree – wait three weeks for an appointment with doctor!
Agree – very poor GP services in Ponteland
Totally agree. Having to wait several weeks to follow up an appointment with your GP is ridiculous
Why don't the surgeries become one and rationalise
GP surgeries are businesses
Agree - overdue

To seek to work with service providers and others to secure better access to healthcare in Ponteland:

Agree: 7

Comments:

Strongly agree
Yes please
More Doctors to stop 3 week wait for an appointment

Seek to implement the Ageing Well in Northumberland Strategy:

Agree: 9

Comments:

Ageing well very important to older residents of Ponteland
Possibility of 2 differently placed surgeries in Ponteland to help traffic flow and parking
Especially working towards being a "dementia friendly" community

TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Continue to work with NCC and press for a relief road for Ponteland:

Agree: 9

Comments:

Metro to Ponteland
Parking is the "make or break" item essential to Ponteland
Not sure
As a business owner parking provision (increased parking) would be essential
Need a relief road
More consultation needed for relief road
Disagree. This would take up a lot of land and more housing would be built to pay for it. It would be counterproductive as traffic would increase.
I support the relief road
Disagree with bypass. Once through Ponteland not enough traffic to justify. Most traffic stays in Ponteland.
Where will it start and finish?

Not really sure – would need to understand the impact first

Work closely with the Bus Users Group in Ponteland to improve the reliability of public transport in Ponteland, and seek to promote investment in real-time information at key bus-stops in Ponteland:

Agree: 8

Comments

Very, very important. Give us even a fraction of the transport links Blyth/Cramlington etc have!

Provide bus connection to Metro at Callerton Parkway with through ticketing

DO NOT want the Metro to come up to Ponteland

Bus service needs to be extended into later evenings which would reduce the use of cars

Bring Metro to Ponteland. Ridiculous to have large population outside of scope of metro

Buses need more reliable and frequent services into the night

Sustainability is key, especially for an ageing population

There are residents who need to get to hospital, Newcastle etc and are no longer able to drive there

Agree to bus stop info

No Metro in Ponteland!

To work with local groups and NCC to identify key 'accessibility hot spots' where improvements could improve accessibility for those with mobility impairments:

Agree: 3

Comments:

Agree – very important as resident age grows older

Agree – the uneven nature of pavements and cafes putting tables outside causes difficulties for disabled people

Make Health Centre accessible for all via public transport

Parking – vital need for more car parking

To work with NCC to seek funding allocations for improvements to cycle infrastructure in Ponteland:

Agree: 5

Comments:

Roads overall need to improve

Not before time! And repair the roads for cyclists and motorists in the meantime!

Please repair the road surface for all users not just cyclists who spread over the road endangering pedestrians and motorists

Improve cycle way past Donkins Farm to Medburn

Work with NCC to implement a 20mph limit in some areas of Ponteland (particularly around the schools):

Agree: 3

Comments:

Firstly we need to make sure the 30mph limit is adhered to
Agree – although the problem will be policing it – you can't educate some people on speeding

People drive too fast up Darras Road. Some speed awareness signs would be good

Get a limit on the Link Road (Rotary Way) too!

All residential areas should have a 20 m.p.h. speed limit!

Agree – schools should provide parking for parents

Children should walk home - no need for parents to pick up older kids

Proposals under the Transport objective, to improve accessibility to public transport for the older person:

Agree: 3

Comments:

Agree. Again, sustainability and accessibility is key, in particular for our ageing population.
Transport – All parts of Ponteland need to be accessible by public transport – including Darras Hall which has a number of elderly who can only access the Health Centre by TAXI
Public Transport to include facility to access the Health Centre. To see the elderly toiling up Meadowfield should convince anyone!!!

ENVIRONMENT

To work with NCC to extend the Conservation Area boundary in Ponteland and to develop and adopt a Conservation Area Character Appraisal for Ponteland:

Agree: 14

Comments:

Agree – we do not want to become urban sprawl with in filling of houses on Green Belt

Agree – Essential

To eliminate use of herbicides to encourage insect and wildlife both in open spaces and on verges

Agree – very important point

To support the Red Squirrel group in Ponteland to maintain and improve the populations of red squirrel locally:

Agree: 12

Comments:

Definitely important

Waste of time. It is proven that greys and reds do not exist in the same area. Greys are here. Reds are disappearing. No solution except eradication of greys

Agree – we have to improve populations of squirrels with green areas!

Agree - all nature wildlife is worth maintaining to keep a balance to the environment

Agree - green

To liaise with landowners and other stakeholders to safeguard land needed as flood storage areas:

Agree: 12

Comments:

Restrictions on new build to ensure all have soil based areas and not all tarmac etc for parking

Agree to an extent – it could be a complicated situation with an unwilling landowner taking in to account topography too and finding the right site

Very important

Agree building on flood plains creates a problem

Depending on compensation

I agree, particularly with point 5 regarding flood storage facilities

Plant more trees to stop flooding

To work with Northumberland County Council (NCC) to get an Article 4 designation on parts of Ponteland where it is desirable to remove permitted development rights for front boundary changes:

Agree: 9

Comments:

Agree – but absentee landlords e.g. Callerton Estate have no interest in their landowning other than profit e.g. sell out to profit driven developers

Agree - our boundaries are precious and should not be allowed to shrink

Agree – you don’ want to lose the character of the settlement

Agree – very important point

Totally agree on this – developers get away with anything

To work with NCC and local businesses to reduce and standardise the amount of 'A' boards on the streets:

Agree: 6

Comments:

Do not agree – who is this affecting!

Agree – it has worked in other areas so why not here?

What?!!

Agree – these boards are ugly and a health hazard