

Delivering the vision and objectives – Community Actions

Through the process of developing the Neighbourhood Plan some areas of community concerns cannot be covered by planning policy however as part of the Neighbourhood Planning process they can become 'Community Actions', supported by Ponteland Town Council. These proposals can also be delivered in conjunction with other local organisations. Three Community Actions have been identified as part of the preparation of the Plan, these are described below.



Conservation Areas

Community Action 1: Conservation Areas

To work with Northumberland County Council to review the Ponteland Conservation Area boundary and to develop and adopt a Conservation Character Appraisal and Management Plan for Ponteland and High Callerton Conservation Areas.

This community action has two distinct parts:

- Reviewing the existing Ponteland Conservation Area Boundary with the intention of adopting a Conservation Area Character Appraisal; and
- To seek to work with NCC and all interested parties to develop an acceptable Management Plan for the future.

Through community engagement, residents have clearly supported the creation of a Conservation Area Character Appraisal for Ponteland. Currently, Ponteland does not have such an appraisal. This Action is supported by the Ponteland Civic Society who wishes to take it forward on behalf of the community, working with the Town Council, to produce a Conservation Area Character Appraisal and seek consideration of possible revisions to Conservation Area Boundaries.

For any modification there must be support as laid down in guidelines relating to special architectural or historic interest.

Local List of Heritage Assets

Community Action 2: Local List of Heritage Assets

To work with Northumberland County Council and the local community to support the preparation and adoption of a Local List of heritage assets of local value.

During the process of consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan residents expressed concern for a number of local features which they value as part of the character of the civil parish. Many of these are of architectural or historic interest. The Ponteland Civic Society is particularly keen to take the lead on putting a list together and have outlined a draft to take this forward.

The criteria used for the draft purposes are applied in a Local, rather than a National context, and may be summarised as follows:

- a) Architectural interest;
- b) Historical interest;
- c) Landscape or Leisure value;
- d) Social, Religious or Community relevance;
- e) Mixture of (a) to (d) above.

This draft list prepared by Ponteland Civic Society, shows the possible inclusions

- 1) The Diamond Inn, to the east of the river and the north side of Ponteland Road.
- 2) The Greensward, to the east of North Road and south of St. Mary's Church.
- 3) The former Coates Institute, 1 Main Street, currently occupied by Estate Agents Sanderson Young.
- 4) Ponteland Methodist Church at the junction of Callerton Lane and Ponteland Road.
- 5) The building to the east of Ponteland Methodist Church, known as Ash House, Bell Villas.
- 6) The building immediately to the east of (5) above, known as 14 Bell Villas, currently occupied by solicitors Nicholson and Morgan.
- 7) The Greensward and trees surrounding Ponteland Library, Thornhill Road.
- 8) The former Nat West Bank building at the junction of Darras Road and West Road.
- 9) Merton Cottages, 2 & 4 West Road.
- 10) "Ladywell Cottage" on West Road, immediately to the West of Collingwood Court.
- 11) St. Matthews RC Church on West Road.
- 12) Ponteland Park to the south of West Road in its entirety.
- 13) Eland Green Farm off North Road with adjacent residences and duck pond.
- 14) Little Callerton Cottage, 79 Runnymede Road. [8]
- 15) No 10 Darras Road.
- 16) No 8 Darras Road – a cottage for Miss Wakinshaw's gardener.
- 17) The three restored milestones originally erected for the turnpike that are on the A696 through the parish.
- 18) Dalton Village Hall.
- 19) Clickemin Farmhouse. NE20 9BQ

- 20) The former school on the Ponteland Police Headquarters Site.
- 21) Strettle's Funeral Parlour.
- 22) Ponteland Memorial Hall, Darras Road. NE20 9NX

Youth Forum

Community Action 3: Youth Forum

To create a Youth Forum to promote the needs of the young people in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Our evaluation throughout the neighbourhood planning process has seen the need to engage with the young people of Ponteland and find out their views on what it is like to be young and live in Ponteland. To make any improvement for them there is a need for a means to achieve this.

The Town Council contribute to the youth service provision and have supported the work of the Ponteland Community Partnership (PCP) in putting forward projects specifically for the youth. Recently the PCP hosted a Democracy Week event in the Memorial Hall inviting residents to attend, with the support of our local MP, Mayor and Councillors on a panel against the Debating Society of the High School on youth issues. This gave the students the opportunity to debate in public rather than just with their peers.

The Community Partnership aims are:

- To identify the things that really matter to people who live and work in Ponteland Civil Parish that will improve the quality of life;
- To work with all interested or involved parties to develop acceptable ways of meeting these needs.

As the Community Partnership membership includes a Town Council representative this would be seen as the best placed group to encourage a Youth Forum. Recently, they have appointed a Youth Ambassador to seek young members to join the group and get involved

Future Community Actions:

Work is ongoing on further Community Actions; these are described below as it is considered that they may be suitable for the future:

- To liaise with landowners and other stakeholders to safeguard land needed as flood storage areas;
- To work with Northumberland County Council (NCC) on the possible implementation of Article 4 Directions on areas of the neighbourhood Plan area where it would be desirable to remove permitted development rights for front boundary changes;
- To work with NCC and local businesses to reduce and standardise the amount of street clutter, including advertisements, street furniture and signage;
- To continue to work with NCC on the possibility of a future relief road for Ponteland
- To support the Bus Users Group in Ponteland with the aims of promoting accurate information, improving accessibility of public transport in the neighbourhood plan area;
- To work with local groups and NCC to identify key 'accessibility hot spots' accessibility for those with mobility impairments could be improved;
- To work with NCC to seek improvements to cycle infrastructure in the Neighbourhood Plan area;
- Work with NCC to implement a 20mph limit in some appropriate areas, such as schools, in the Neighbourhood Plan area;
- To improve accessibility to public transport for all;
- Work with NCC to establish the viability of a link bus from Ponteland centre to Callerton Parkway and seek means of funding;
- Work with NCC to establish new linkage routes and make more effective those existing linkage routes between Ponteland Village Centre and nearby facilities and car parking;
- To influence and work with GP and all service providers to meet the additional needs of residents including accessibility to healthcare in the neighbourhood Plan area;
- To establish the viability of a 'Community Hub' at a central location in Ponteland Village, which could provide a new location for the Town Council, NCC hot desk, Social Services, Citizen Advice, small business hot desk facility, library and other facilities and services for the wider community. Work in collaboration with local shops and community facilities to develop a Community Toilet Scheme where toilets are made available for public use during opening hours.