

**TOWN COUNCIL 13 JUNE 2012****1. Local Transport Plan (LTP) Programme and Feedback**

- 1.1 Priority schemes for Newbiggin were agreed last summer and submitted to the county council for consideration as part of the 2012-13 LTP programme. Altogether some 102 responses were submitted by Parish/Town Councils and County Councillors, consisting of over 300 individual requests.
- 1.2 The programme has now received final approval at a value of almost £15m with separate block allocations of grant for integrated transport and highways maintenance. All approved schemes are available to view on the county council website at <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=7846>
- 1.3 Urgent works for Spine Road Replacement Parapets; Street lighting Column Replacement; Connect 2 Cycleway totalling £1.19m were brought forward.
- 1.4 Feedback on the Town Council's three individual requests is set out in the attached appendix with one scheme accepted for a feasibility study; one placed on the reserve list the other added to the Directory of Requests for future consideration.
- 1.4 The process will be commencing soon to invite priorities for the 2013-14 programme and Members are requested to consider the Town Council's approach.

**2. Northumberland Local Development Plan Core Strategy – Issues and Options**

- 2.1 Formal statutory consultation on the Northumberland Core Strategy which will become the overarching spatial plan for the County has commenced with the Issues and Options Document.
- 2.2 This is an important part of the planning process to seek views on future housing needs; new work opportunities; protection and enhancement of the environment and energy; minerals; land and water resources.
- 2.3 The Core Strategy Issues and Options Document is supported by a Technical Index; Sustainability Appraisal; Habitat Regulations Assessment Scoping Report; Equality Impact Assessment which are substantial documents made available on CD. A number of public drop-in sessions have been arranged around the area which Planning Officers will attend the nearest being in Ashington on Wednesday 20 June (4:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the Old Coop) and Tuesday 26 June (9:00 am to 1:00 pm at The Market, Station Road)

RECOMMENDED that the Issues and Options be considered and whether any comments need to be made in relation to Newbiggin by-the-Sea.

**3. Proposed changes to On and Off-Street Parking Tariffs Structure for the County**

- 3.1 Last year the County Council adopted the Northumberland Parking Strategy and is now proposing to carry out a countywide restructure of its on and off-street pay and display tariff structure. Consultation is being carried out under the Local Authorities Traffic Orders Regulations.
- 3.2 The principal of the new tariff structure is that core town centre parking should be the shortest stay as this parking space is at a premium with more flexibility in less central parking spaces. Charges at off-street car parks will be levied between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm with on-street charging finishing at 5:00 pm.
- 3.3 A wide range of time limits and tariffs at over ninety locations throughout the county are being replaced by twelve tariffs covering Short Stay: Medium Stay: Flexible Stay: Long Stay with only two sites remaining free of charge. At the present time parking spaces in Newbiggin by-the-Sea are not included in the scheme and should remain that way to encourage retail and tourist visits to the town.

RECOMMENDED that members consider any response to this consultation.

**4. New Standards Regime**

- 4.1 A Code of Conduct was adopted by the Town Council in 2009 but following the Localism Act the Secretary of State has disbanded the Standards Board and existing Codes of Conduct and replaced them with a new duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct. There are seven principles of accountability; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty and leadership to be considered although there is to be no mandatory or draft Code issued by the government.
- 4.2 Under the Act it is for Northumberland County Council to put in place arrangements to deal with complaints including those relating to Parish Councillors. It has been working with the Northumberland Association of Local Councils on a possible Code but this cannot be finalized as regulations regarding the registration and disclosure of "Disclosable Pecuniary Interests" have not been issued despite the new regime taking effect on 01 July.
- 4.3 A new Standards Committee has been appointed by the County Council comprising 8 members (proportionally 3:2:2:1) with one Town or Parish Councillor to be co-opted from each Area Committee area. The following have already been nominated by the NALC County Committee as the Parish Representatives: Eileen Burt; Peter Lovatt and David Buckle.
- 4.4 An advertisement was placed for the appointment of an Independent Person and the County Council has shortlisted candidates and will interview on 14 June.
- 4.5 The County Council must establish a new Register of Members' Interests including those of Town and Parish Councils and this will be published on the Web Site. Failure to register in future will be a criminal offence and there will be a duty to disclose unregistered interests at the commencement of consideration of any matter

in which a member has an interest. New forms will have to be completed once regulations have provided the definitions.

- 4.6 It is intended to have all local council's adopt the same Code for consistency although the powers relating to sanctions are greatly reduced.
- 4.7 In the area of member decision-making the issues of allegations of bias and pre-determination have long been controversial and the government has included a presumption against a member having a "closed mind" unless this can be rebutted perhaps by the use of strong language or extreme views. It is likely that member training will be necessary when all of the Standards issues have been finalized.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council note the changes to the Standards Regime.

## 5. Dogs Orders – review of first year

- 5.1 New Orders were brought into effect last year in time for the summer season to restrict access to the beach with dogs and provide for fixed penalties and members wished to review the first year of operation in the light of continuing complaints.
- 5.2 This is overseen by the Senior Community Warden in Regeneration and Public Protection and a team of 6 Community Protection Officers covering the whole of Northumberland. Their remit is dealing with accumulations of rubbish and dog faeces on private properties, emergency boardings, noise monitoring, issue of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) to owners who do not pick up after their dogs, dog control orders, as well as Clean Neighbourhood Surveys supporting RSLs in environmental issues. A team of Animal Welfare Officers consisting of 5 officers and a Senior Officer also covering the whole county are also authorised to issue FPNs for dog fouling and enforcement of the Dog Control Orders.
- 5.3 The Senior Community Warden has checked the formal complaints received by the team with regard to dog fouling in Newbiggin and only one complaint has been received and that was in the Hepple Road area. Officers carried out patrols and placed new stickers explaining the penalty for not picking up dog faeces.
- 5.4 Officers are currently patrolling Newbiggin beach and promenade three times per day, with the remit of enforcing the beach ban but also to issue FPNs to dog walkers who do not pick up. During these patrols officers approach dog walkers giving out advice on the control orders but also handing out bags. CPOs carried out 212 patrols from 03.05.2011 in relation to the Dog Control Order covering Blyth and Newbiggin by the Sea beaches and 23 patrols with AWO at weekends. Approximately 1900 bags were handed out to dog walkers.

2011	Approaches and Bags	Requests to leave the beach	Supportive / Abusive
May			
Blyth	111	95	All supportive
Newbiggin	12	10	All supportive

June

**NEWBIGGIN BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL****Report of Town Clerk**

Blyth	86	31	All supportive
Newbiggin	0	0	0
July			
Blyth	81	0	80 supportive 1Abusive
Newbiggin	9	0	All supportive
August			
Blyth	53	0	All supportive
Newbiggin	0	0	0
September			
Blyth	36	0	All supportive but 13 thought
Newbiggin	0	0	ban ended 01.09.2011
			0

- 5.5 It would appear from the report that while people in Newbiggin are expressing dissatisfaction with arrangements regarding the new Dog Orders very few are making formal complaints through the proper channels at the county council. It is clearly important that members of the public report breaches direct to the county council either by telephone or e-mail so that they are recorded and provide information regarding identity if known; location and frequency so that the Community Protection and Animal Welfare Officers can carry out their job effectively leading to an improvement in local environmental conditions.

RECOMMENDED that members of the public be encouraged to support the enforcement arrangements by officially reporting all incidents and providing appropriate information to county officers.

## Appendix 1

## NCC Local Transport Schemes 2012-13

## Integrated Transport £1.724m

Measures for Pedestrians and Cyclists	£ 471,500
Public Transport	£ 899,500
Improvements for Road Users	£ 40,000
Traffic Management	£ 115,000
Local Safety Schemes	£ 183,000
Programme Development	£ 15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,724,000</b>

## Highways Capital Maintenance £13.218m

Principal Roads Structural Maintenance	£ 2,700,000
Non Principal Roads Structural Maintenance	£ 3,973,000
Surface Treatment Programme	£ 1,400,000
Landslips	£ 420,000
Bridges	£ 3,525,000
Streetlighting Column Replacement	£ 400,000
Public Rights of Way	£ 200,000
Contingency (Belford)	£ 600,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£13,218,000</b>

## Appendix 2

<b>Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Parish Council</b>
--

<b>Request</b>	<b>Feedback</b>
New cycle track and footpath widening scheme adjacent to Spital Farm to provide a safe walking and cycling route to the High School.	A feasibility study into this has been included in the programme. Works could take place in future years, subject to feasibility and cost.
Traffic calming scheme in Collingwood Road to complement the safe route to school being provided (East Lea to school campus).	This is on the traffic calming reserve list, to be implemented if funds become available.
Resident parking schemes to be introduced in Beach Terrace, Prospect Place and Vernon Place.	Added to Directory of Requests for future consideration.