

LOWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Vision and Objectives - June 2018

Neighbourhood Planning came about through the introduction of the **Localism Act in 2011**. It gives local communities an opportunity to influence development in their areas. The **Neighbourhood Area for Lowick** was approved by Northumberland County Council on the 19th of **June 2015**.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led planning framework for guiding future development, regeneration and conservation. IT must conform to the requirements of UK Planning Law, Local Planning Documents at a County Level, and EU legislation.

It seeks to guide the use and development of land. It may contain and reflect a vision. It may propose planning policies for improving the area or providing new facilities. It may allocate key sites for specific kinds of development.

Drawing on community consultations with groups, individuals and owners, we have been working hard to draft a Neighbourhood Plan for the area. The Parish Council in Lowick is responsible for the development of the plan, together with members of the community. It is the main body responsible for the augmentation of many of the proposed policies.



Our **Vision** for Lowick is intended to last for 15 years until 2033, or from whenever the plan comes into force. It contains a set of objectives which cover the 7 key themes of **Community Facilities, Natural Environment and Biodiversity, Accessibility, Housing, The Local Economy, and Local Heritage, Character and Design**

For each objective we have identified specific **planning policies** which we think will help the community achieve those targets. We have suggested **community actions** which the Parish Council should take forward to support the Plan

We have been reviewing all possible sites for future development (see maps on the website and in our booklet). The aim is to encourage suitable development, which both meets our needs and is in keeping with the character of our village and its different localities.

We are now consulting you, on whether you think we are going in the right direction.

Are there things you agree or disagree with? Are there things we have missed? You can comment directly on the objectives and proposed policies in this pamphlet, or do so online via Lowick.Live of the Neighbourhood Plan website [address in the footer of each page.

If you have further questions, there is a **Consultation Open Day on Saturday 30th June, from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm**, at Lowick Village Hall

OUR VISION FOR THE LOWICK PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA:

By 2033, Lowick will be a Parish with a balanced, sustainable community and a mix of people of all ages. Local facilities and services will be maintained and enhanced. Local character and heritage will be the inspiration for new development which will be well integrated into the village. Lowick and the wider parish will be an even more attractive place to work, live and visit.

Please comment here on this Vision

Comments also online, at www.lowickneighbourhood.wordpress.com, or to Lowick Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, c/o Ann Gold, Barmoor Southmoor, Lowick, or to lowick.parish@outlook.com, by July 15th 2018.

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Objective 1: Community Facilities

We will protect our most highly valued community facilities and encourage the provision of new community facilities to increase the sustainability of Lowick



To do this we propose the following **planning policies**:

Policy L1: Community Facilities

To protect local community facilities and registered Assets of Community Value from loss to other uses, and to support the further provision of new community and recreational facilities

Do you agree we should have a policy on this? Yes/No (please circle)

What do you think are the most important community facilities in Lowick that we should retain?

What type of new facilities (including recreational facilities) do we need?

Policy L2: Local Green Spaces

We will designate land as 'Local Green Space' which will be given the highest level of protection. Development on these sites will not be allowed except in very special circumstances unless it is related to the enhancement or enjoyment of that Local Green Space.

Do you agree we should have a policy to designate Local Green Spaces in the village
Yes/No (please circle)

Which green spaces do you most value in Lowick, and why?

Community Actions

For this objective, community actions to be taken forward by the Parish Council will be:

CA1: We will identify and register Assets of Community Value with Northumberland County Council.

CA2: Provide and encourage better public information about community facilities, local needs and local services and support initiatives such as Lowick in Bloom

CA3: We will identify sites for new green space in partnership with owners, and work to promote groups who might use them

CA4: We will work closely with the school, the village hall, and the church to improve facilities and links with the local community.

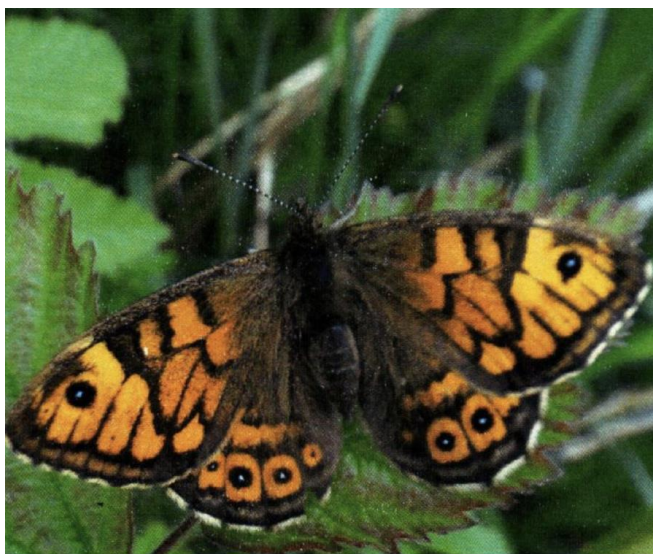
Please make any additional comments here:

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Objective 2: Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Landscape

Lowick will grow in such a way that respects the special landscapes around it, incorporates bio-diversity into new development and respects the special qualities of the area.



To do this we propose the following **planning policies**:

Policy L3: Development within the settlement boundary for Lowick

Define a settlement boundary for the village and focus new housing development within the settlement boundary. Outside the settlement boundary new open market housing would not be permitted.

Do you agree with this policy? Yes/No

Do you agree with the proposed settlement boundary shown on the plans? Yes/No

Policy L4: Biodiversity and development

This policy would ensure that new development incorporates biodiversity and landscaping into the scheme wherever possible and incorporates measures to reduce the impact of lighting of the development on biodiversity and on the nearby Dark Sky Park.

Do you agree with this policy? Yes/No

Community Actions:

Alongside the planning policies, we propose a number of 'community actions' which will be taken forward by the Parish Council. For this objective, community actions will be:

CA5: Identify areas of special interest, based on local research and knowledge.

CA6: Produce documentary evidence for education and leisure of the diverse flora, fauna, and habitats in the parish.

Please make any additional comments here:

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Objective 3: Accessibility

To make the Neighbourhood Area more accessible to all, we will work to improve access to public transport, improve cycle ways and public rights of way, and make Lowick a safer place to walk and cycle. We will also seek to improve the provision of better mobile telephone communications, and to maintain and improve broadband speeds from all providers.



To do this we propose the following planning policies:

Policy L5: Accessibility

New development must ensure it is well integrated within the village by incorporating high quality and safe pedestrian routes and cycle ways within the development to reduce the need to travel short distances by car.

Do you agree with this policy? **Yes/No**

Policy L6: Walking route between Lowick and the Community Orchard

This policy would support the provision of a safe walking route between Lowick and the Community Orchard and other community facilities

Do you agree with this policy? **Yes/No**

Policy L7: Broadband and Telecommunications

This policy would support telecommunications infrastructure to improve coverage in the Neighbourhood Area and ensure that new development provides broadband infrastructure

Do you agree with this policy? **Yes/No**

Community Actions

The Parish Council will also work to achieve the following community actions:

CA7: preserve and improve public transport services and liaise with NCC Highways to reduce speeds through the village and traffic calming

CA8: Work with landowners to improve walking routes between the village and the Community Orchard

CA9: Monitor and report on public footpaths, and seek to add to available paths where possible – most notably, a circular route parish path round the perimeter

CA10: Monitor and work to preserve the current status and condition of the Church Lane – Dryburn Lane B.O.A.T., known locally as “The Backsides”

Please make any additional comments here:

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Objective 4: Housing

To ensure we have a truly sustainable community we will seek to ensure there is enough housing to meet the needs of all sectors of our community, particularly young families and first-time buyers.



To do this we propose the following planning policies:

Policy L8: Housing site allocations

Define sites for new housing and ensure these sites deliver an appropriate amount of affordable housing and a healthy type and mix of housing based on housing needs in our area.

Do you agree with this policy? **Yes/No**

Where should we propose new housing in the village? A site has been identified at the west end of the village, which could also include rented affordable accommodation. You could comment on this location.

What kind of new housing do we need most in Lowick?

Policy L9: New housing within the settlement boundary

Support new housing within the settlement boundary of Lowick providing it complies with certain criteria.

Do you agree with this policy? **Yes/No**

What do you think these criteria should be?

It has been suggested that the sale of new homes for second/holiday homes should be prevented.

Would you agree with such a policy? **Yes/No**

Community Actions

The Parish Council will also work to achieve the following actions:

CA11: We will work with CAN (Community Action Northumberland) to develop an appropriate method of assessing and encouraging community housing needs work with Bernicia and NCC on providing for housing needs

CA12: We will continue to work with landowners on planning for housing development

Please make any additional comments here:

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Objective 5: The Local Economy

Provide opportunities for and support a more vibrant and diverse local economy including tourism in Lowick village and surrounding areas



To do this we propose planning policies that:

Policy L10: Local employment

Promote more small-scale employment enterprise, including home-working in the village and allocate land for employment use if available.

Do you agree with this policy? **Yes/No**

Policy L11: Rural enterprise

Support rural enterprise, farm diversification and rural businesses, including businesses based around heritage and tourism, and identify specific sites (Barmoor Castle)

Do you agree with this policy? **Yes/No**



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Objective 6: Local Heritage, Character and Design

Preserve and enhance the character of the village of Lowick and identify local buildings which are of special local interest. Identify a historic core for the village and ensure that new development in that area reinforces local character. Supporting and encourage new building which promotes good design standards and shows originality if required.



To do this we propose to have the following planning policies:

Policy L13: Non-designated heritage assets

Identify buildings that are of local historic interest and have a policy to ensure their protection and enhancement

Do you agree with this policy? **Yes/No**

Policy L14: Lowick's Historic Core

Identify a 'historic core' for Lowick and support development which enhances and retains its special character.

Do you agree with this policy? **Yes/No**

Policy L15: Sustainable and innovative design

Policy to support innovative, sustainable design, and design that introduces interesting new character to the village.

Do you agree with this policy? **Yes/No**

Policy L16: Conversion of buildings

Support the conversion of redundant buildings to residential or other uses

Do you agree with this policy? **Yes/No**

Community Actions

CA13: Work with owners at Barmoor Castle to improve the building, and potential for visitors to access the Castle

CA14: Adopt a buildings style-guide for Lowick based on local vernacular architecture and features which encourages imaginative and effective re-use of agricultural buildings

Please make any additional comments here:
