



Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan

About the Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan is a new kind of planning document being prepared by the Parish Council on behalf of the community. Once completed, it will have legal status and be used in making decisions on planning applications within the Parish.

The preparation of the Plan provides the opportunity for everyone in the local community to decide how our area should grow and develop in the future in four key ways -

- **BY PROTECTING** – the things people cherish within the area
- **BY IMPROVING** – the things which detract from its appeal
- **BY PROVIDING** – for development and uses of land to best meet the needs and aspirations of those living, working in and visiting the Parish
- **BY MANAGING** – the aspects of development and land use which need to be carefully managed

Moving forward – we need your views!

The Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan Group are keen to seek your views to help us move forward with the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Since we carried out our early engagement consultation at the beginning of 2015, we have been busy assessing what you said. As a result, we have now developed a draft vision and objectives under 7 key topic areas to help form the building blocks of the Neighbourhood Plan. We think these capture the key messages from the early engagement, but we'd like to hear what you think before moving forward.

Together with the draft vision and objectives, we are also asking a few more focussed questions under each topic. Your responses will help make sure we have all the information and support we need to develop the detailed subject matter of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Completing and returning the questionnaire

Responses are sought from as many individuals as possible by the closing date of 29 February 2016. Please get in touch if you would like any more paper copies (contact details below). All questions relate to land within the Parish boundary (see Map 1 on p.2). You may leave blank any questions you're unable to answer, and there is also an open question at the end if there is anything else you'd like to tell us.

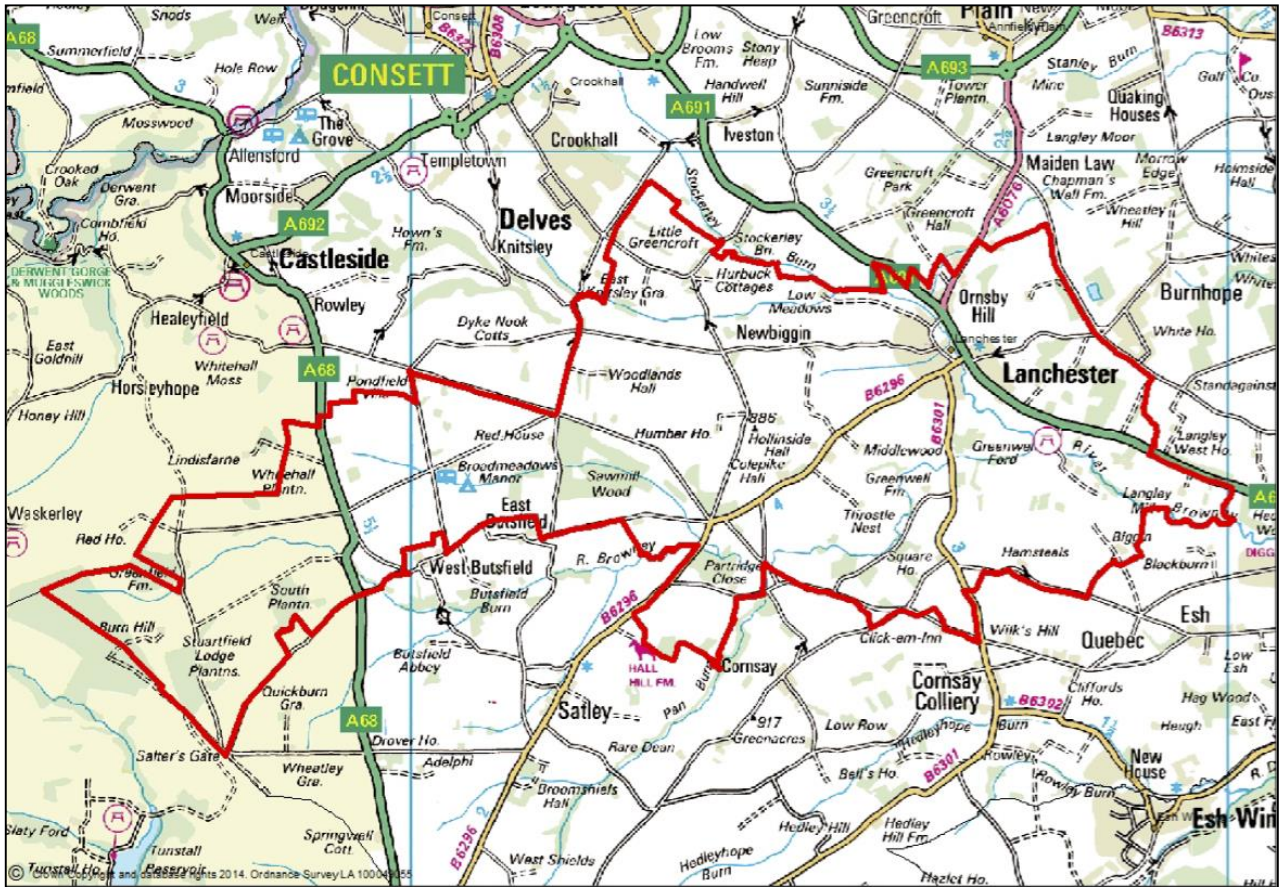
This questionnaire can be completed online at www.lanchesterparish.info/neighbourhood-plan/

Completed paper questionnaires can be returned by using the drop-in boxes at the Post Office, Library or the Community Centre or by post to the Parish Council (address below). If you would like your completed questionnaire to be collected, please telephone the Parish Council to arrange (number below).

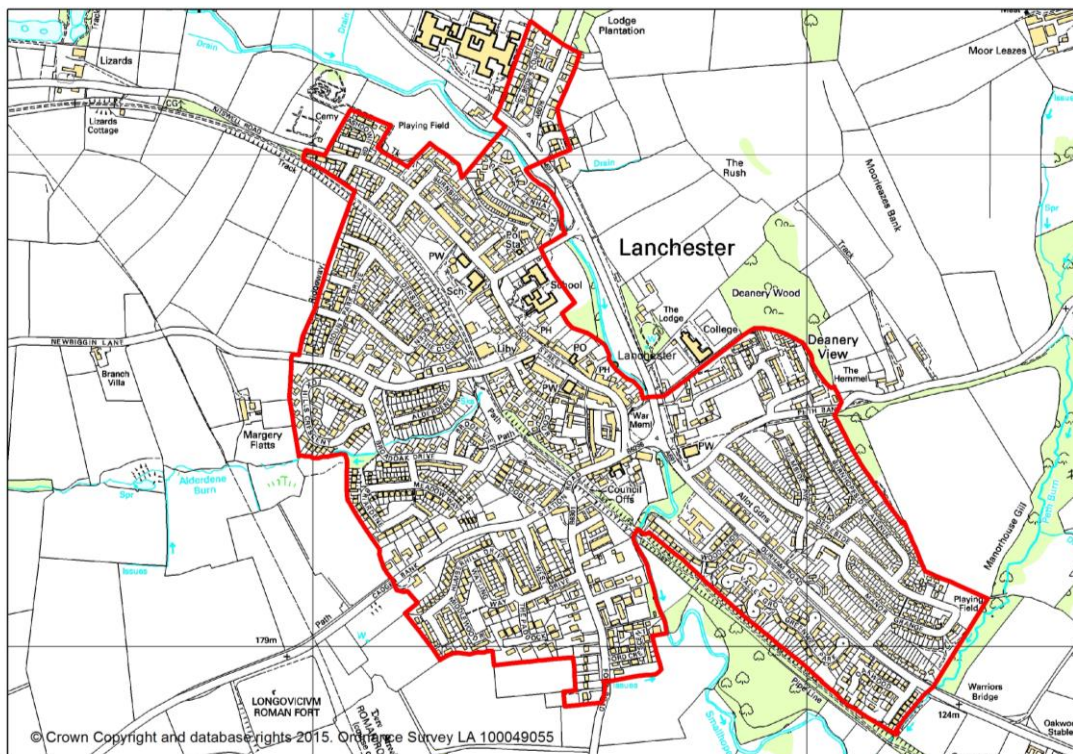
If you have further questions, we are having an Open Day event on Saturday 20 February between 10am – 12noon at the Methodist Church. Further details about this and the Neighbourhood Plan process generally are available on the Parish Council's website at <http://www.lanchesterparish.info>



MAP 1 – SHOWING BOUNDARY OF LANCHESTER PARISH



**MAP 2 - SHOWING SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY OF LANCHESTER
ESTABLISHED UNDER THE FORMER DERWENTSIDE LOCAL PLAN**





A) A SHARED VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF LANCHESTER

The preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Lanchester gives everyone the opportunity to have a say in what our Parish should be like in the future (the next 10 to 15 years). Your responses to the earlier consultation revealed some clear and recurring messages and we have drawn these together to set out a draft vision for the Neighbourhood Plan.

We would like to begin this questionnaire by seeking your views on the draft vision to make sure that it properly captures the aspirations of the community and is broadly supported:

DRAFT VISION:

‘Lanchester will be a place with the facilities and amenities to serve and maintain a strong and cohesive community. The Neighbourhood Plan will protect and enhance its essential village character, its wealth of diverse wildlife habitats and heritage assets, its attractive rural setting and the economic, social and leisure opportunities they provide to the benefit of all who live, work in and visit the area’.

1) *Please tick the box which best describes your view about this draft vision for the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan:*

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

2) *If you wish to make any comments or suggest improvements to the draft Vision, please do so below:*

.....

.....

.....

B) HOUSING

A Neighbourhood Plan is used to guide and manage new development, not to stop it entirely. In terms of housing development, we need to ensure that the Plan strikes the right balance – planning appropriately for the future housing needs and aspirations of the local community, whilst at the same time safeguarding the essential character and identity of the village and the Parish.

The earlier consultation identified that pressure for new housing development was a dominant concern. However, at the same time, there was a clear recognition that, for the community to flourish, housing needs ought to be appropriately and sensitively addressed, with particular reference to homes for the elderly and affordable homes. This section includes some questions to help us better understand your views in relation to housing needs and the best way of accommodating them.



Firstly, however, the following broad objective has been prepared which seeks to capture the overall approach that the Plan would take in respect of housing:

DRAFT OBJECTIVE 1: HOUSING

'To meet the housing needs of the Parish in order to contribute to a strong and flourishing community, whilst protecting the essential qualities and attributes of the area'

3) Please tick the box which best describes your view about this draft objective for the Lancaster Neighbourhood Plan:

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

4) If you wish to make any comments or suggest improvements to the draft objective, please do so below:

.....

.....

.....

5) Thinking about the housing currently available in the Parish and the future needs of the community, what do you think should be the appropriate types of new houses to be built over the next 10 to 15 years? Please tick one box per row:

HOUSE TYPE	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Affordable homes (including social/shared ownership etc)				
Smaller homes (1 to 2 bedrooms)				
Family homes (3 to 4 bedrooms)				
Retirement/sheltered housing				
Bungalows				
Flats/apartments				
Homes for sale (on the open market)				
Homes for rent (on the open market)				



6) *In the years since 2001, planning permissions have been granted for approximately 10 to 12 dwellings per year in the Parish as a whole. Do you think that over this period this amount of housing development has been too much, too little, or about right? Please tick:*

Too much	Too little	About right

7) *Thinking about the housing currently available in the Parish and the future needs of the community, what do you think would be an appropriate amount of new houses to be built over the next 10 to 15 years? (NB – these amounts are per year) Please tick:*

None	Up to 5 a year	6-10 a year	11-15 a year	16-20 a year	Other amount (please specify)

As an alternative to conventional ‘developer-led’ housing, the Neighbourhood Plan could put forward measures to facilitate custom or self-build homes. These are homes built or commissioned by individuals or groups of individuals for their own use, either by building the home on their own or working with builders.

It would be useful to find out whether, in principle, such measures would be supported.

8) *Would you support the Plan including measures to facilitate custom or self build housing within the Parish? Please tick:*

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

The previous approach in the Local Plans of many former District Councils in County Durham was to identify **settlement boundaries** (known as ‘development limits’) as a mechanism to manage the location of new development. Map 2 on p.2 shows the boundaries established for Lanchester under the former Derwentside Council’s Local Plan. This approach is not however being pursued in the Council’s new County-wide Local Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan however provides an opportunity to consider whether a boundary should be identified around Lanchester, and if so, how should it best be drawn in terms of providing appropriate scope for new development.

9) *In terms of managing the location of new housing development in a Neighbourhood Plan, do you favour (in principle) the identification of a clear boundary to the settlement of Lanchester? Please tick:*

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree



10) *Thinking about your answers to Questions 5 to 8, if a boundary is identified through a Neighbourhood Plan, how should it be drawn around the settlement? Please tick which option you consider is most appropriate:*

Options:		
a)	A boundary should be drawn around the settlement, following its current built extent.	
b)	As above, but with some opportunity for a small amount of housing at the edge of the settlement, the nature and details of which to be agreed through the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan	
c)	Do not support the identification of a boundary – housing proposals should be assessed on a case by case basis subject to criteria to be agreed through the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan	

An important part of the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan is to provide an opportunity not only for people to have a say in the amount and type of new housing development, but also to suggest possible locations which may be suitable.

11) *Are there any sites you think may be suitable for housing development? If so, please describe the site(s) below as accurately as you can and briefly explain your reasons why:*

.....

.....

.....

C) DESIGN OF NEW DEVELOPMENT

The Government attaches great importance to the design of the built environment, especially design that will help establish a ‘strong sense of place’ and ‘create attractive and comfortable places to live, work and visit’.

Some of the key messages from the earlier consultation around design issues included a desire to achieve improvements in the design of housing, the importance of having attractive buildings in the village centre and the need for building conversions to be sympathetically carried out.

In the light of the above, the following broad objective has been prepared which seeks to capture the overall approach that the Plan would take in respect of the design of new development:

DRAFT OBJECTIVE 2: DESIGN OF NEW DEVELOPMENT

‘To ensure that any new development in the Parish, whether it is new-build housing, conversion of existing buildings or other built development is carefully designed to protect the essential qualities and attributes of the area’



12) Please tick the box which best describes your view about this draft objective for the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan:

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

13) If you wish to make any comments or suggest improvements to the draft objective, please do so below:

.....

.....

.....

The Parish has previously prepared a Village Design Statement for Lanchester, recognising the features and aspects of design that make up the essential character of the area. This was approved by the former Derwentside District Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance and can be viewed at <http://www.lanchesterparish.info> in the publications section.

A new Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish could build on this by containing up to date policies and guidance to ensure that new development is well designed and sympathetic to this character.

14) Do you think the Neighbourhood Plan should draw upon the Village Design Statement to include up to date policies and guidance for the design of new development? Please tick:

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

D) BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT

It is important to ensure that the right kind of support is given to businesses to survive and grow in the Parish. Views expressed in the earlier consultation referred to the importance of local employment opportunities within Lanchester and also the need to support and manage the wider rural economy. There was also broad support for the retention/provision of shops and services meeting local needs.

In the light of the above, the following broad objective has been prepared which seeks to capture the overall approach that the Plan would take in respect of business and employment.

DRAFT OBJECTIVE 3: BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT

‘To support local employment opportunities within Lanchester and the provision of shops and services to meet the needs of those who live, work in and visit the area. To support a strong and diverse rural economy, including farming, tourism and other land-based rural businesses which respect the special qualities and character of the countryside’



15) Please tick the box which best describes your view about this draft objective for the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan:

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

16) If you wish to make any comments or suggest improvements to the draft objective, please do so below:

.....

.....

.....

17) What provisions would you like to see in terms of encouraging business and employment uses within the Parish? Please tick one box per row:

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a)	Encouraging working from home				
b)	Making provision for existing businesses in the Parish to thrive and grow				
c)	Making provision for suitable small scale employment to establish and thrive (eg – local start-up businesses)				
d)	Making provision to allow Lanchester to remain a popular tourist/visitor destination				

18) Do you have any other suggestions for encouraging appropriate business and employment uses within the Parish? Please specify:

.....

.....

.....

E) HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

The heritage of the Parish is one of our greatest assets. The results of earlier consultation were clear that the community wanted it to be properly identified, cherished and protected for current and future generations. We already have a Conservation Area for Lanchester, which is designated for its special architectural and historic interest. We also have the Longovicium Roman Fort site and other Scheduled Ancient Monuments as well as a large number of Listed Buildings.

In the light of the above, the following broad objective has been prepared which seeks to capture the overall approach that the Plan would take in respect of conservation and heritage:



DRAFT OBJECTIVE 4: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

'To ensure that the diverse heritage assets of the Parish are identified, protected and enhanced, and their significance is understood, recognising the positive role they can have in learning for present and future generations and the economic, social and leisure value they provide to those who live, work in and visit the area'

19) Please tick the box which best describes your view about this draft objective for the Lancaster Neighbourhood Plan:

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

20) If you wish to make any comments or suggest improvements to the draft objective, please do so below:

.....

.....

.....

The Parish is currently working with the County Council to carry out an appraisal of the Conservation Area, and with the North of England Civic Trust to carry out a comprehensive audit of the heritage assets of the Parish.

The Conservation Area (and wider Parish) contains a number of Listed Buildings, which are buildings or features identified on the National Heritage List held by Historic England. These are protected by law and require Listed Building Consent to extend, alter or demolish them.

However, there may be other historic buildings, features or sites in the Parish, which, although locally important, do not have the protection of being Listed Buildings. These could include anything from historic landscapes or areas (including below-ground archaeology) to characterful buildings and structures and smaller features such as historic stiles, milestones, post boxes or signs etc.

The preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan offers the opportunity for these to be identified on a 'local list', which would enable them to be afforded some degree of recognition and preservation.

21) Do you think it is appropriate for a Neighbourhood Plan to identify important (non-Listed) buildings or features within the Parish for inclusion in a 'local list'? Please tick:

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree



22) *Are there any sites/features you think may be suitable for inclusion on a local list? If so, please describe the sites/features below as accurately as you can and briefly explain your reasons why:*

F) GREEN SPACES & THE RURAL LANDSCAPE

Responses to the earlier consultation showed that the local community also valued the attractive rural setting of Lanchester, its open green spaces, trees and wildlife and the quality of the wider countryside.

In the light of the above, the following broad objective has been prepared which seeks to capture the overall approach that the Plan would take in respect of green spaces and the rural landscape:

DRAFT OBJECTIVE 5: GREEN SPACES & THE RURAL LANDSCAPE

'To protect and enhance the attractive rural setting of Lanchester, the open green spaces within it and the quality of the wider countryside'

23) *Please tick the box which best describes your view about this draft objective for the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan:*

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

24) *If you wish to make any comments or suggest improvements to the draft objective, please do so below:*

Neighbourhood plans provide an opportunity to actually identify green spaces of particular importance which should merit protection. Such areas must hold a particular local significance, for example because of their beauty, historic or recreational value, tranquillity, or richness of wildlife.



25) Do you think it is important for the Neighbourhood Plan to identify open green spaces for protection within the settlement of Lanchester? Please tick:

Very Important	Quite important	Not important

26) Are there any open green spaces you think should be identified? Please describe the site(s) below as accurately as you can and briefly explain your reasons why:

.....

.....

27) Do you think there are any neglected areas of open green space which need improvement? Please describe the site(s) below as accurately as you can and briefly explain how they could be improved:

.....

.....

G) TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL

Further key concerns identified in the earlier consultation were the detrimental effects of traffic and the need for appropriate provision for parking within the Parish. Many also commented about the lack of public transport.

In the light of the above, the following broad objective has been prepared which seeks to capture the overall approach that the Plan would take in respect of transport and travel:

DRAFT OBJECTIVE 6: TRANSPORT & TRAVEL

‘To reduce the detrimental effects of traffic and parking pressures, whilst seeking to cater for a range of modes of transport and travel to better meet the needs of those living, working in and visiting the Parish’

28) Please tick the box which best describes your view about this draft objective for the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan:

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

29) If you wish to make any comments or suggest improvements to the draft objective, please do so below:

.....

.....

.....



30) Which of the following should be a high, medium or low priority for the Parish? Please tick:

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority
Better public transport			
Better provision for cyclists			
Better provision for pedestrians			
Improved provision for car parking			
Traffic calming measures			

H) COMMUNITY ASSETS

Finally, many people who responded to the earlier consultation said they valued the community facilities and activities available in the Parish and wished to see them safeguarded and improved. Allied to this were concerns over the potential pressures on community assets from new development and population growth.

In the light of the above, the following broad objective has been prepared which seeks to capture the overall approach that the Plan would take in respect of community assets:

DRAFT OBJECTIVE 7: COMMUNITY ASSETS

‘To identify and protect community assets in the Parish in order to sustain and promote a strong and flourishing community’

31) Please tick the box which best describes your view about this draft objective for the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan:

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

32) If you wish to make any comments or suggest improvements to the draft objective, please do so below:

.....

.....

.....

33) What facilities/amenities do you think we need within the Parish to cater for existing and new housing development? Please specify:

.....

.....

.....



I) FURTHER COMMENTS

34) If you have anything further you wish to add to your responses in this questionnaire, or anything which hasn't already been covered, please do so below:



J) DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS

This helps us find out if we have gained the views of a cross section of the population. It will not be used to identify respondents. Responses will be held securely and in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

35) Please enter your postcode

--	--	--	--	--	--

36) How old are you?

Under 18		36-45		66-75	
18-25		46-55		76-85	
26-35		56-65		Over 85	

37) Are you...?

MALE		FEMALE	
------	--	--------	--

38) What is your connection with the Parish? Please tick all that apply:

		YES	NO
a)	Do you live in the Parish?		
b)	Are you a holiday-home owner in the Parish?		
c)	If working, do you work in the Parish?		
d)	Do you have a business based in the Parish?		
e)	Other – please		

39) If you live in the Parish, how many years have you lived here? Please tick:

< 1	1-3	4-5	6-10	11-15	> 15

An online version of this questionnaire can be completed at
www.lanchesterparish.info/neighbourhood-plan/

Completed paper questionnaires can be returned in the following ways –

- By using the drop-in box at the Post Office, Library and Community Centre
- By post to the Parish Council (address below)
- If you would like it to be collected, please telephone the Parish Council to arrange (number below)

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE !

Lanchester Parish Council, Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester, Co Durham, DH7 0LS
TEL: 01207 520146 EMAIL: lanchesterparish@btopenworld.com WEB: www.lanchesterparish.info