

## Sample of Publicity

Parish Council Newsletter – November 2014

### Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan



Lanchester Parish Council are preparing a Neighbourhood Plan which will be a community-led framework for guiding development, regeneration and conservation over future years. The plan will set out the views of the local community in terms of planning issues such as how much and what type of new housing may be required, and whether there is a need for new shops, offices, workshops and leisure facilities etc. It can also look at things like green open spaces, play facilities, surgeries, schools and parking – as well as measures to address the heritage assets in the Parish.

Once adopted Durham County Council will have to consult the Neighbourhood Plan as well as the Durham County Plan when making planning decisions in our Parish. It will have legal force that previous village documents like the Village Design Statement did not have and will be very influential in shaping the way Lanchester and the Parish might look in the future.

To begin the process the Parish Council would like to find out from you some of your ideas, concerns, likes and dislikes about living or working in the Parish. A working group consisting of representatives of the community have designed a short questionnaire which will be distributed and available throughout the Parish during January. The questionnaire will ask some very general questions. The answers will help us to begin the process of drafting a Neighbourhood Plan. This early community engagement aims to identify key themes and issues that can be used to inform the vision and aims for the plan.

The questionnaire will be available from key village locations, to be published in the Village Voice or can be requested from the Parish Council. The working group also aims to approach many community groups within the Parish to seek their views.

Please look out for the questionnaire in January. We look forward to receiving your responses.

### Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan

During January a questionnaire was distributed in the community. This questionnaire asked some general questions about your likes, dislikes, ideas and concerns about living or working in the Parish. This early community engagement aims to identify key themes and issues that can be further investigated to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. Completed questionnaires were received which represented views from 450 members of the community. The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group will be analysing the questionnaire returns in February. Following this additional more in depth work will be undertaken to develop policies for the Neighbourhood Plan. The community will be informed and involved as the next stages of the plan take place.

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### LANCHESTER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – YOUR ISSUES

As reported in the last Village Voice, work continues on the preparation of a Neighbourhood plan for the Parish and January is the month for you to inform the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group of your concerns and issues. You can do this by filling in a short questionnaire. Copies of the Questionnaire can be collected from Lanchester Community Centre, the Library, the Post Office and from the Parish Council office at Lynwood House.

It will help the working group considerably if you can share your concerns and ideas about development in the Parish, protection of green spaces, leisure provision, shopping improvements and other concerns you may have. The working Group will have to turn your ideas into hard Planning Recommendations and it will help them if you can have this in mind when completing the questionnaire. There will be further sharing of those recommendations with residents once they are formulated. Members of the group will also be approaching leaders of many of the Parish Organisations to ask them to consult their members for ideas too so there may be more than one opportunity for you to take part. Members of the working group will also be very happy to discuss the questionnaire with you individually if that would help.

Questionnaires will be available from 2 January 2015.

Completed questionnaires can be placed in the boxes at Lanchester Community Centre, the Library or can be posted back to: Lanchester Parish Council, Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester, DH7 0LS.

Questionnaires need to be returned by Friday 30 January 2015. We look forward to receiving your questionnaires

Village Voice Newspaper – December 2014

## Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan

A Neighbourhood Plan is a document which will guide development, regeneration and conservation within our Parish over future years. The Neighbourhood Plan will set out the views of our local community in terms of planning issues and will contain a number of planning policies for the Parish. Once adopted Durham County Council will have to consult the Neighbourhood Plan when making planning decisions in our Parish.

During January a questionnaire was distributed in the community. This questionnaire asked some general questions about your likes, dislikes, ideas and concerns about living or working in the Parish. This early community engagement aimed to identify key themes and issues that can be further investigated to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. Completed questionnaires were received which represented views from 450 members of the community.

The results of the questionnaires have been analysed and a display of the results has been compiled.

The display will be placed in the following community venues in Lanchester for the community to view.

Methodist Chapel	6 – 12 June
Library	8 – 13 June
Community Centre	15 – 20 June
Social Club	15 – 21 June
Croft View Halls	22 – 28 June

Parish Council Newsletter – May 2015

In addition representatives from the Neighbourhood Plan working group will attend the following sessions:

Saturday 6 June  
Methodist Chapel  
10.00am – 12.00noon

Saturday 20 June  
Community Centre (small hall)  
10.00am – 2.00pm

We hope you will be able to come along to look at the information and find out about the next stage for the plan. If you would like further information about the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan please contact the Parish Council on 01207 520146.

## Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan

Work continues on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Lanchester. In January residents were asked to comment on likes, dislikes, issues and concerns in the Parish. Analysis of the results was undertaken and a second more detailed questionnaire has now been prepared under the guidance of a consultant. It is intended to distribute this second questionnaire in January. Copies will be provided to households and the questionnaire will be available on-line too. Please look out for this questionnaire and take the opportunity to have your say.

Work has also been undertaken on a Conservation Area Appraisal. The County Council have led on this project supported by volunteers from Lanchester. Many thanks to all the volunteers who were involved. The County Council are now preparing the document which the community will be consulted on in the New Year.

The North of England Civic Trust have been appointed to support the group in preparing a Heritage Audit for the Parish. Work will commence shortly and volunteers are needed to undertake some of the survey work. If you would like to be involved please contact Sally on 01207 520146.

Both the Conservation Area Appraisal and the Heritage Audit will become supplementary documents to the Neighbourhood Plan and will provide evidence to support the policies it contains.

If you would like further information about the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan please contact the Parish Council on 01207 520146.

Village Voice Newspaper – Nov 2015

## **LANCHESTER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – Have your say**

***Housing .... Design of New Development ..... Business & Employment ..... Historic Environment  
Green Spaces & the Rural Environment ..... Transport and Travel ..... Community Assets***

The Neighbourhood Plan is a new kind of planning document. 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 the local community to decide how our area should grow and develop in the future. 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.

**Throughout February we will be conducting a survey to  
seek the views of the community**

We have 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 previous consultations, 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.

The questionnaire will be delivered to households in the village at the beginning of February and posted out to rural properties. Responses are sought from as many individuals as possible by the closing date of 29 February 2016. Additional copies of the questionnaire can be picked up at the Post Office, Library and Community Centre.

**The questionnaire can be completed online at**

**[www.lanchesterparish.info/neighbourhood-plan/](http://www.lanchesterparish.info/neighbourhood-plan/)**

Completed paper questionnaires can be returned by using the drop-in boxes at the Post Office, Library and Community Centre or by post to the Parish Council, Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester, DH7 0LS.

**If you have further questions, we are having an Open Day event on Saturday 20 February  
between 10am – 12noon at the Methodist Church.**

**We look forward to receiving your completed questionnaires**

### **Conservation Area Character Appraisal**

Durham County Council are currently carrying out a public consultation on the draft character appraisal for the Lanchester Conservation Area. The draft document can be viewed at [www.durham.gov.uk/LanchesterCA](http://www.durham.gov.uk/LanchesterCA) Comments on the document need to be submitted by 27 February. For further details or queries please contact the County Council on 03000 267146.

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## Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan

In February a second topic based questionnaire was distributed in the community to all dwellings and businesses. The questionnaire asked for feedback on a draft vision and objectives under 7 key topic areas and some focussed questions were asked under each topic area. 307 completed questionnaires were received. Some findings from the questionnaire are as follows:

- ◆ 96% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the draft vision.
- ◆ Draft objectives categories included: Housing, Design of New Development, Business & Employment, Historic Environment, Green Spaces & the Rural Landscape, Transport and Travel and Community Assets. Between 89% and 99% of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the draft objectives.
- ◆ With regard to the appropriate number of new houses to be built per year over the next 10 - 15 years, 26% of respondents said none, 20% said up to 5 dwellings, 24% said 6 - 10 dwellings and 21% said 11 - 15 dwellings per year.
- ◆ Over 89% of respondents were in favour (in principle) of a boundary to the settlement of Lanchester to manage the location of any new housing development.
- ◆ Over the last 15 years permission has been granted for approximately 10 - 12 dwellings per year. 61% of respondents thought this was about right and 32% of respondents thought this was too much.
- ◆ 92% of respondents agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan should draw upon the Village Design Statement to guide the design of new development.

The Conservation Area Appraisal completed by Durham County Council and assisted by volunteers from the community has now been approved by the County Council. The heritage Audit is also nearing completion. The North of England Civic Trust have assisted volunteers in producing the audit which has involved surveying and recording over 200 heritage assets. The Conservation Area Appraisal and the Heritage Audit will provide valuable information for the Neighbourhood Plan.

The next step is to bring together all the information we have gathered to prepare a topic paper for each objective / area which will then produce options to achieve the objectives. A grant of £5000 has been secured from 'Locality' to engage a consultant to assist with this process. A full day workshop took place in July to begin this next stage of the plan.

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## Lanchester Community Heritage Audit

The Heritage Audit has now been completed. A community mapping exercise early in 2016 identified over 200 heritage assets in the Parish. The North of England Civic Trust assisted volunteers in producing the audit which involved surveying and recording the heritage assets. These included significant buildings, archaeological sites, industrial remains, key views and evidence of military activity over the years. Twenty volunteers were involved in the surveying and recording which took over 6 months to complete.

The Parish Council would like to present the Heritage Audit to the community and therefore extend an invitation to you to attend an event on Saturday 18 March at Lynwood House between 2pm – 4pm. Following speeches at 2pm you will be able to view the document whilst enjoying light refreshments.

In addition the event will provide information on progress with the Neighbourhood Plan

**Saturday 18 March      2pm – 4pm      Lynwood House**

Please come along and see the Heritage Audit document and photographs. Everyone welcome.

If you would like further information about the Lanchester Community Heritage Audit or the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan please contact the Parish Council on 01207 520146.

Village Voice article – February 2017