



## Parish Plan 2 – Two Years On March 2015

The Coxhoe and Quarrington Hill Parish Plan 2012-2017 (Parish Plan 2) and its Action Plans for both villages were adopted by Coxhoe Parish Council in September 2014 following a significant amount of community engagement. The Plan became the principal driver of Parish Council action and decisions. The Parish Council have been reviewing progress and decided it was important to share progress with the community. We are doing so through this summary document

### What's happened in Coxhoe

The main issues in Coxhoe at the time of the preparation of Parish Plan 2 were the potential closure of the Leisure Centre, the long term future of the Village Hall and the potential for a significant amount of housing in the village without appropriate infrastructure. In implementing the Coxhoe Action Plan we have addressed these issues and more.

**You told us that you wanted the Leisure Centre to remain open**

***94% of household survey respondents in the Parish wanted the Leisure Centre to stay open and 85% felt that the Parish Council ought to support it.***

**In response the Parish Council has engaged with the community to help save the centre from closure and secure handover, while supporting the Active Life Centre financially to ensure sustained viability through increased choice and usage. Community members are now running the Centre on a not for profit basis while continuously improving its facilities while providing a vibrant environment for residents of Coxhoe and Quarrington Hill.**



***95% of respondents in Coxhoe considered that the Village Hall should be retained and improved***

**You told us that you wanted the village Hall to be kept open and improved**



**In response the Parish Council provided financial assistance and engaged with the community and partners to encourage a new Management Committee to come forward and breath new life into the Village Hall. The Village Hall has been physically improved and now has regular music and dancing events, an established book club, increased social activities including a regular craft club and has become a popular social venue. It is thriving!**

**Opinion was split on the need for new housing but 75% of people felt that there ought to be new social infrastructure should any significant houses be built**

**You told that you felt there should be no new housing without adequate social infrastructure**



**In response we have adopted housing policies aimed at only supporting new housing where there are adequate proposals or plans to provide appropriate social infrastructure including school, health and elderly bungalow provision. The Parish Council has since objected to planning applications for significant housing developments at Parkside, The Limes, Bogma Farm and Station Road. Proposals for the Bogma Farm development would include a £275,000 contribution to build 3 new classrooms at Coxhoe Primary School if the development proceeds.**

**You told us that you wanted the Village Greens retained and improved**

**90% of survey respondents considered that the village greens ought to be retained and improved**

**In response we have worked with partners and the community to develop and implement plans for sustained future and increased use of the Village Greens. We have provided financial support to complete the first phases of the Village Green Heritage and Learning project and are working on plans for future phases. The scheme has achieved a Durham County Partnership Environmental Award in 2014**



**In addition, and also covering Quarrington Hill, we have achieved the following from the Coxhoe Action Plan:**

- Considered feasibility of annual carnival and chose not to pursue in light of continued success of Coxhoe United fun day and Coxhoe Primary Summer Fayre
- Secured a range of volunteers to plan events
- Shared household survey with DCC Highways
- Considered winter path clearing service but received insufficient volunteers
- Shared household survey with the Police
- Established health pages on Parish Council website
- Adopted and used a range of planning policies
- Shared household survey with county planners
- Keep Coxhoe Clean Campaign has been launched
- Parish Clerk now acts as media officer
- Use of community calendar encouraged
- Encouraged more people to contribute to Coxhoe and Quarrington Chronicles
- Tip operator provided with results of household survey
- Achieved funding for a Youth worker to progress Youth Forum and provide activities for young people



We are making progress on a range of other planned actions including:

- Further engagement of children and young people
- Working with Village Hall to achieve cyber café facilities
- Considering feasibility of highway improvements with DCC at Green Crescent, Cornforth Lane, Sanderson Street
- Joining up Village Hall and Co-op car parks
- Provision of waiting restrictions in front Street
- Identify and report street lighting issues
- Lobbying for new doctors surgery while improving access to existing
- Feasibility of luncheon clubs
- Improvement in training for the Encouragement of joint street walkabouts
- Village signage project
- Develop Untidy land and buildings register
- Develop supplementary planning guidance with DCC
- Development of Garden of Remembrance
- Sustainability of Coxhoe Park



## What's happened in Quarrington Hill

The main issues in Quarrington Hill at the time of the preparation of Parish Plan 2 were the potential closure of the Community Centre and the need for improved facilities the need for a better bus service and environmental improvement In implementing the Quarrington Hill Action Plan we have addressed these issues and more.

**You told us that you wanted the Community Centre to be retained and be improved**

*97% of household survey respondents wanted the Community Centre to be retained and improved*



**In response the Parish Council provided financial incentives to the community centre. In addition funding of over £50,000 was obtained to improve the facilities. An asset transfer of the building has been completed, and new activities, including those for children, have been provided.**



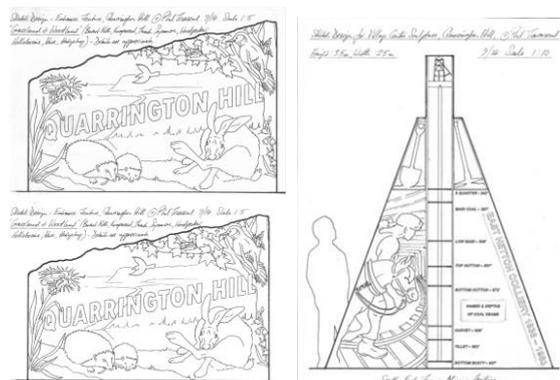
**You told us that you wanted better services for children and young people**

*90% in Quarrington Hill and 76% in Coxhoe felt that the County/Parish should provide more funding for young and felt there ought to be a youth council*

**In response the Parish Council has provided funding for youth activities in Quarrington Hill. We have obtained a £9,000 grant and are using it for Investors In Children to identify what activities and facilities young people from Quarrington Hill and Coxhoe want and we have committed resources to recruit a Youth Development Worker to help young people turn their aspirations into reality, and make Quarrington Hill and Coxhoe better places for young people to live and enjoy growing up.**

**You told us that you wanted  
the environment of the  
village to be improved**

**70% of respondents felt there was a  
need for Front Street Regeneration**



In response the Parish Council has taken an active role in delivering the Front Street Regeneration project. As you have seen from the public display last year and from previous issues plans are progressing, and it is hoped work will start in the next few months. It is proposed to place sculptures specifically designed for the village at the entrance to Hawthorne and Bellevue and a larger piece on the green area opposite the community centre. Half of the funding is in place and we are awaiting news on other applications. Planning consent has been given for the work but securing the authority to erect the sculptures has been difficult and complicated. We are now working on improved planting in QH as part of the scheme with residents.

In addition, as well as cross village actions noted earlier we have achieved the following from the Quarrington Hill Action Plan:

- Developed policies to support community facilities
- Established policies of supporting local businesses and shopping facilities
- Provided a new community notice board in the village
- Use of community website and social media has been encouraged
- A new community newsletter has been issued
- Developed an untidy land and buildings register and lobbied the County Council to ask owners to make improvements, and key sites have been improved

Finally, we are making progress on a range of other planned actions including:

- Exploring further ways of engaging young people,
- Considering how to go about a feasibility study for changing facilities at the playing fields
- Negotiating with DCC for land transfer to improve allotments
- Progressing the setting up of an allotments association
- Considering effective ways of supplementing grit bin provision
- Lobbying DCC to improve winter maintenance in Quarrington Hill
- Ensuring that development is supported where it is the right scale for the village
- Developing supplementary planning guidance as part of Neighbourhood Plan progress

**We intend to continue pursue the implementation of Parish Plan 2. We will also continue to monitor and review the Plan.**

You can find out more about the plan and progress on the Parish Plan pages of our community website [www.coxhoeparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.coxhoeparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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