



## Parish Plan 2011-2016 Report of Second Community Event 5th March 2011 – Coxhoe Village Hall

### **Present:**

#### **Coxhoe Parish Council:**

Ian Forster, Margaret Forster, Paul Dodsworth, Stuart Dunn, Keith Pounder, Ron Mayo, Barbara Hepplewhite, Colin Thirlaway, Jimmy Taylor, Dennis Smith.

#### **Durham County Council:**

Dennis Morgan, Jane Bellis (AAP co-ordinator) Emma Agar (Youth worker).  
(Apologies from Maria Plews).

#### **Coxhoe Community Partnership:**

John Hepplewhite, Joe Tweddle, Eric Pratt.

#### **Durham Rural Community Council:**

Lesley Millgate, Charlotte Bates, Fay Willis, R. Hayward, Ian Pillar, Ken Hazelwood

### **Residents:**

A total of 71 people signed into the event (excluding those from the DRCC). A further but unknown number visited the exhibition but did not want to leave contact details. There was a contingent of young people, largely from the Youth room who engaged in the event, displayed an exhibition stand and participated in the table discussions.

### **The Programme.**

The event started with an exhibition of the successes of Parish Plan 1 and the emerging issues for Parish Plan 2. A looped powerpoint was projected during the event. The exhibition was removed at the end of the event. Issues and solutions forms were available on all tables together with copies of the PP1 Final progress reports.

The Chair of the PP2 Steering Group opened the meeting and outlined the nature of the exhibition and the event. Roberta Blackman-Woods joined the event half way through and addressed the audience on her position in respect of the potential closure of Coxhoe Leisure Centre.

**Workshop One.** The first workshop started at 10.45am and was brought to conclusion at about 11.40 am. This asked those present to outline issues and suggest solutions to them, facilitated by members of the Steering Group and scribed by members of the DRCC. The results of these are attached as Annexe 1. These results will be used to help develop the Household Questionnaire which is the next stage of the Parish Plan process.

**Workshop two.** The results of the first workshop were analysed by the DRCC during a break and presented on Flip Chart sheets. Residents were then given 5 votes and asked to vote on what they felt were the most important issues. In total 252 votes were cast. The issues were ranked as follows:

The majority of votes (61) went towards activities for younger residents but this is probably not surprising since there were young people at the event who may not have voted for wider issues. The engagement of young people was invaluable.

**Principal issues attracting the most votes included:**

Young People's activities – 61  
Traffic –40  
Environment – 32  
Crime and Policing – 28  
Housing and Planning – 28  
Community Buildings – 22  
Range of Facilities – 15  
Employment – 14  
Communication – 12

**Specific Issues attracting the most votes included:**

19 votes improve village hall  
16 votes restart carnival  
13 votes reduce dog fouling  
12 vote increase employment opportunities  
12 votes create youth council  
12 votes set up cybercafé  
11 votes more police presence

This information will only be used to help produce the questionnaire.

Residents were then asked for volunteers to help in the process in the future. The following individuals offered their help:

**Janice Young, Margaret Jackson, Kim Lowes, John McMillan, Nicola McMillan; Neil Sleeman; Kevin Joyce; Jack Turton; Jeremy Dibble; John Buchanan; Kevin Appleby; Steve Armstrong; Carol Pratt,**

**Dennis Morgan; John Hepplewhite; Jessica Harden; Natalie Harden; Michael Lavelle; Tony Plews; Colin Thirlaway, and Barry Turnbull.**

### **The Leisure Centre**

At the end of the event time was given to specifically discuss the potential closure of the Leisure Centre issue. The key issue to arise from that was to assemble enough volunteers to form the basis of and Action Group,

### **Analysis**

The attendance at the event was excellent. A large audience was expected and the room was full. There was a fantastic debate on all tables without an over focus on the important Leisure Centre issue. The engagement of the young people, working with adults was particularly pleasing and useful. While the turnout was great, and apart from the cohort of young people below 18, the majority of those that attended were older people. Consideration will need to be given as to how to engage a wider range of ages in future events. However, those present raised a significant amount and range of issues, outlined in Annexe 1 which ought to aid the next stage in the process.

**Ian Forster**

**Chair, Coxhoe and Quarrington Hill Parish Plan 2 Steering Group.**



## **Annexe 1: Results of Issues and Solutions Workshop.**

### **Coxhoe Public Meeting Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2011 Feedback**

#### **Attendance**

Excluding DRCC staff, 71 people attended the event

#### **Volunteers**

21 people have volunteered to support the Plan process

#### **Feedback from Groups**

##### **Group 1**

#### **Environment**

- Village expansion but not the capacity in the schools
- Dog fouling – need more bins (would people use them?) need awareness campaign
- Footpaths/tracks being used by motorbikes – need bollards/kissing gates
- Disused buildings an eyesore; old cinema and school
- Utilise Village Hall

#### **Crime/ Youth Nuisance**

- Young nuisance down but village suffers as it is a central hub for other villages
- Lighting improvements to discourage crime – by the Co-op, behind The Grove

#### **Street Scene**

- Improve Village Green with planters etc.
- Improve north entrance to village e.g. flowers by Coxhoe sign
- Front Street needs to be made more appealing
- Co-ordinated improvement plan – need a landscape architect?
- Need to get the children involved so they take ownership of projects
- Link up Co-op and parish car parks- improve condition, provide more spaces

#### **Employment**

- Decreasing opportunities in the village
- Suggestion of the Parish Council employing a 'handy man'

#### **Traffic**

- Current road calming measures (road humps) not working
- Chicanes suggested – but may not be allowed due to volume of traffic

- Electric speed signs needed in Front Street but location dictated by Highways Agency

## Group 2

### Communication

- Noticeboards – need more e.g. at Leisure Centre. Use different communication methods for different audiences e.g. twitter and facebook. Link various community group websites
- Parish Council - 'don't do a bad job' Good links to Community Partnership. Need to publicise their achievements more.

### Front Street

- Parking a real issue – consider disc parking, improving existing
- Big improvement in Commercial Row, few empty units, good range of shops
- Some larger derelict buildings an issue – old cinema, old school (could be used for infill housing development)

### Village Hall

- Vital for village – used by all
- Access issues
- Not used to capacity
- Needs to be used more by younger people
- Need to encourage collaboration across all community buildings
- Need to promote what's available, don't know what's going on

### Environment

- Entrance to village could be improved with planting
- Look for village green status for green areas – need to clarify ownership
- Need to find out what village wants
- New hanging baskets too low – liable to vandalism
- Baskets good but could be better – take care with appointment of contractor

### Policing

- Are we having any in the future? – make representation to retain current provision
- Need bigger neighbourhood watch system
- PCSO in evidence

### Young People

- Pays dividends to involve young people in discussions. Reaping benefits from involving younger people in previous Plan. YP's have better values. Need to keep older ones engaged. Youth Room at Leisure Centre an important resource
- Five year plan for football club to increase age range taking part. Appeals to boys and girls, providing service for surrounding villages

## **Employment**

- Coxhoe a dormitory community
- How can we exploit employment opportunities in area
- Should residents be asked if they want to see building land allocated for houses or commercial development
- 'Driver for development is not a factory unit – it's a motorway junction

## **Requirements for future/housing**

- Assumption that village will grow again by about 400 dwellings – no problem so long as infrastructure including roads, schools and doctor's surgery can cope
- Additional traffic will need to be managed
- Additional housing needs to be mixed use development with two bedroomed bungalows included

## **Lynn Park Crescent Area – correct address? ' the forgotten part of Coxhoe'**

- Feel excluded from Coxhoe, don't feel part of village –want signs as village entry point
- Want improved traffic calming/ speed reduction measures
- Needs improved street furniture, fencing and planting

## **Group 3**

### **Environment**

- Litter an issue especially at bus stops – need more litter bins, organised litter pick, street wardens, signs and education
- Green areas under threat from housing – have designated as village green
- Derelict cinema an eyesore – demolish/develop

### **Traffic/roads**

- Poor road surfaces, pot holes etc poor street lighting and flooding, Foundry Row – bring up to standard where County will adopt. Flooding – Northumbria Water issue?
- No entry restriction Cornforth Lane, need better signage to show no through road
- Enforce parking restrictions in School Avenue
- Traffic backing up from motorway roundabout at peak times – review timing of traffic lights

### **Youth Provision**

- Need young people involved in Village Hall provision

### **Village Hall**

- Increase use of village hall – provide more activities, improve heating, toilets etc

## **Group 4**

### **Housing**

- Repairs and derelict properties – get looked at in Front Street but bottom end of Coxhoe is forgotten about

- Some new houses near football ground need attention – PC making representation to landlords but limited powers and little money. Absentee landlords a big issue. Suggest local people get together to fight case. PC and DCC doing what they can.

### **Car Parking**

- Footpath, grass etc damaged on Front street. Curb damage, risk to children, unsightly.
- Speed bumps are ineffective, local people know how to drive over them, others too fast or too slow. Markings have worn off
- Lorries double parked to deliver and also on crossings – need more parking in Front Street
- PC wants to see short term parking provision, boost access for shops
- Problem with outsiders using Coxhoe as car park then catching buses into other areas. Possibly linked to Durham Park and Ride?
- Has number of vehicles through village reduced? Still significant usage
- Access to Tursdale Road is congested
- More tip traffic coming into Coxhoe as result of changes in Quarrington Hill, possibly ignoring weight restrictions
- Traffic lights at chinese restaurant. Tackle parking issue to help local businesses

### **Housing**

- New housing putting huge pressure on school, surgery etc. School extension being built but new surgery is in doubt due to cut backs in PCT funding
- Aim is to bring surgery on to new accessible site
- Gatenby's site earmarked for flats?
- New build, any provision for development gain, i.e. contribute to better village facilities e.g. play areas

### **Environment**

- More work on tree planting, improve environmental appearance
- Limestone links further development
- Dog fouling e.g. through to sports centre
- Bins exist need more enforcement and education

### **Young People's Activities**

- Need more things to do
- Skills workshops, i.e. something positive
- Ask young people what appeals to them
- Talk to DCC/New College
- Links to Leisure Centre issue

## Group 5

### Range of Facilities

#### Shops

- Parking a problem. Disabled people can't access. Need to restrict times, create additional parking, and improve what's there. Need long term parking, management scheme, loyalty scheme
- Shop Local campaign
- Late night opening
- Attract users from outside Coxhoe
- Shop front improvement scheme
- Promote non car usage

#### Community Buildings

- Rescue mission for community buildings
- Proactive expansion, facilities events usage
- Make village hall hub of village
- Attract younger volunteers

#### Health care

- New surgery at Wesley Place, ensure adequate parking

#### Traffic

- Speeding through village (at mini roundabout). Need better signage, repaint speed humps. Improve mini roundabout
- Safety issue for pedestrians

#### Housing

- Planned new housing not approved by community
- Helps businesses but puts strain on other services, schools etc
- Affordable housing for older residents
- Need private investment to create services to attract incomers
- DCC planning levy to build up a fund for community benefit
- Ensure appropriate mix of housing

#### Employment

- Run info events to make it easier to set up business i.e. in village hall
- Job Centre outreach provision

#### Young People

- How to engage/involve young people – develop a youth council
- Attract volunteers to restart carnival
- Provide affordable housing for younger people



## **Environment**

- Extend environmental improvements beyond central area
- Improve street furniture
- Provide more events

## **Other Issues**

- Parish rate is too low – increase the precept

## **Group 6 (young people's group with youth worker)**

### **Communication**

- Parish Council website and Coxhoe Chronicle – positive for Youth Room. Give young people opportunity to write small articles. Promote what they have achieved.
- More website links for Youth Room to comment to put announcements for youth room as not able to use Facebook, banned by DCC
- How do Parish Council make sure people know about the web site
- Get together youth worker and Parish Council to encourage people to use it
- Get Ian Forster to make a presentation to the Youth Room
- Youth Worker send out sessional workers to encourage more people to attend

### **Young People's Activities**

- Need cybercafé in Leisure Centre. Use as drop in centre
- 50-60 children engaged in Youth Room on Friday Nights
- Need somewhere to be comfortable in safe environment
- Youth Worker commented on Youth provision in Cornforth
- Build relationship with older residents
- A lot of youth provision in Coxhoe
- Community to provide volunteers to organise events via Youth Room
- People in community need to be proactive

### **Traffic/Road Safety**

- Issue at south end of village and main street. 30mph at beginning of village
- HGVs an issue
- Speed humps/chicanes

### **Environment**

- Vicarage Tce – don't get cleaned up – no road sweeper
- Blackgate – lack of bins
- Litter Main Street – takeaway containers, lack of bins
- Litter in park – not as bad
- Hanging baskets – lots, all happy
- Pathway through village green. No building, keep as green space and put flowers on
- Village eyesores Gatenby's and old cinema

## **Housing and Planning Issues**

- OK to increase number of houses if schools etc can cope
- Infrastructure must be a major factor – schools, doctors, traffic
- Needs to be affordable homes
- Young people feel it is big enough, further development would spoil views. Coxhoe park possibly to develop housing!! Need park and skate park as nowhere for children to play.
- Busy village needs green space

## **Healthcare**

- Working group - need one for Coxhoe
- Need for larger surgery in growing community

## **Employment**

- If Leisure Centre closes jobs go with it
- Nowhere to put new businesses
- Need bus routes to get to jobs (reduction in bus services)

## **Crime**

- Windows keep getting smashed
- Anti social behaviour – youth
- Enough police presence. Youth worker has quietened things down
- Situation under control
- Suggestion – target small group, police taking action, could be out of village
- If the Leisure Centre wasn't here then crime might go up

## **Leisure Centre**

General observations – Would affect all if closed.

Referral for health issues.

Nowhere else local. Alternative venues not an option.

Footballers need shower facilities and changing rooms

Issue re community building.

Youth Room needs to find alternative venue, detrimental effect on young people.

Local residents interested in bringing revenue into village, e.g. car boot on park, fayre in village hall.

Not sufficient volunteers to do these things.

Sense of community, many people do a little, all elderly people run it.

Petition needs to be signed, maximum impact, move forward

Do on-line petition

Support needed by PC from local residents.

Community needs to push this forward