

## Humshaugh Neighbourhood Plan

### SUMMARY

As part of the preparation work for the Neighbourhood Plan, we carried out a resident's survey during October & November 2022.

Following the responses we received at our public meeting in October, we devised, with assistance from Northumberland County Council planning department and our consultant, an online questionnaire for completion, with a hard copy version available, and launched it on our website [www.humshaugh.info](http://www.humshaugh.info). We also delivered leaflets to every house within the parish advertising the survey.

We received 145 responses and a summary of some of the key responses is given below. More than 70% of surveys were returned electronically which made it easy to analyse.

More than 58% of the respondents were aged over 65. Over 64% had lived within the parish for more than 5 years. Most respondents described themselves as retired.

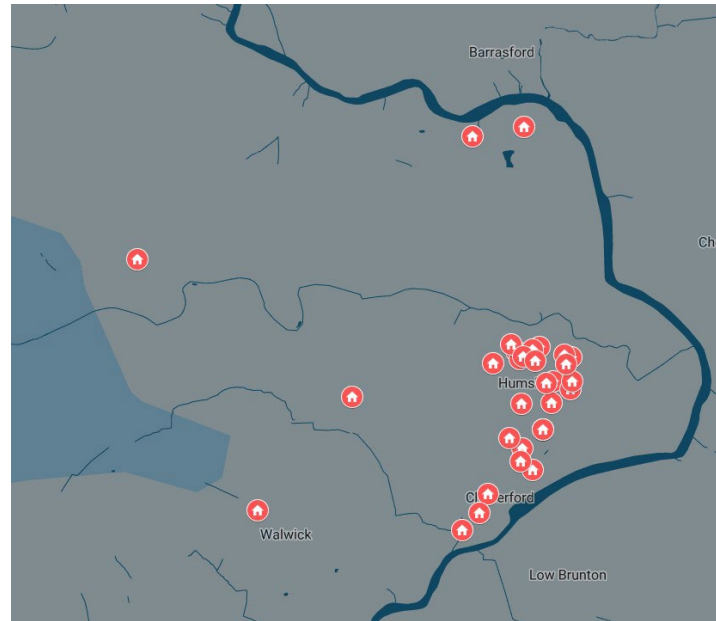


Figure 1 Response locations

### WHAT IS MOST VALUED ABOUT LIVING IN HUMSHAUGH PARISH

Respondents were asked to identify, from a list, what they most valued about living in Humshaugh parish. Access to the countryside (93%), strong village community (81%), attractive setting (78%) and views (78%), and access to services and facilities (78%), were strongly identified as being most valued in addition to tranquillity (70%) and green spaces (73%).

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED

When asked what could be improved the responses highlighted: speed of traffic (45%), public transport (42%), condition of footpaths (38%), dog fouling (31%), availability of parking spaces (25%), health facilities (11%), volume of traffic (10%), and litter (10%).

Other improvements included introducing a 20 mph speed limit, safe cycle routes, improved street cleaning, providing a bottle bank, and ultra-fast broadband,

### CONCERNS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HUMSHAUGH PARISH

Respondents were asked to identify any concerns they had about the future of Humshaugh parish from a list, selecting all that apply and adding any other concerns. Concerns were: loss of green spaces (68%), lack of affordable housing (50%), no supported housing for older people (30%), lack of renewable energy (45%), effects of climate change (39%), contribution to climate change (21%), availability of parking spaces (20%), and design of new developments (46%).

Other concerns included maintaining the open character of the village, concerns over the dominance of 4/5 bedroom new housing, the lack of housing for young families, maintain crucial local facilities such as the shop, the Crown Inn, the village hall, surgery & church. A lack of affordable Net Zero housing linked to local renewable energy generation was identified as was concern over the future of farming.

## WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING GREEN SPACES SHOULD BE PROTECTED & WHY

The value of green spaces in the village were reviewed with reasons reported.

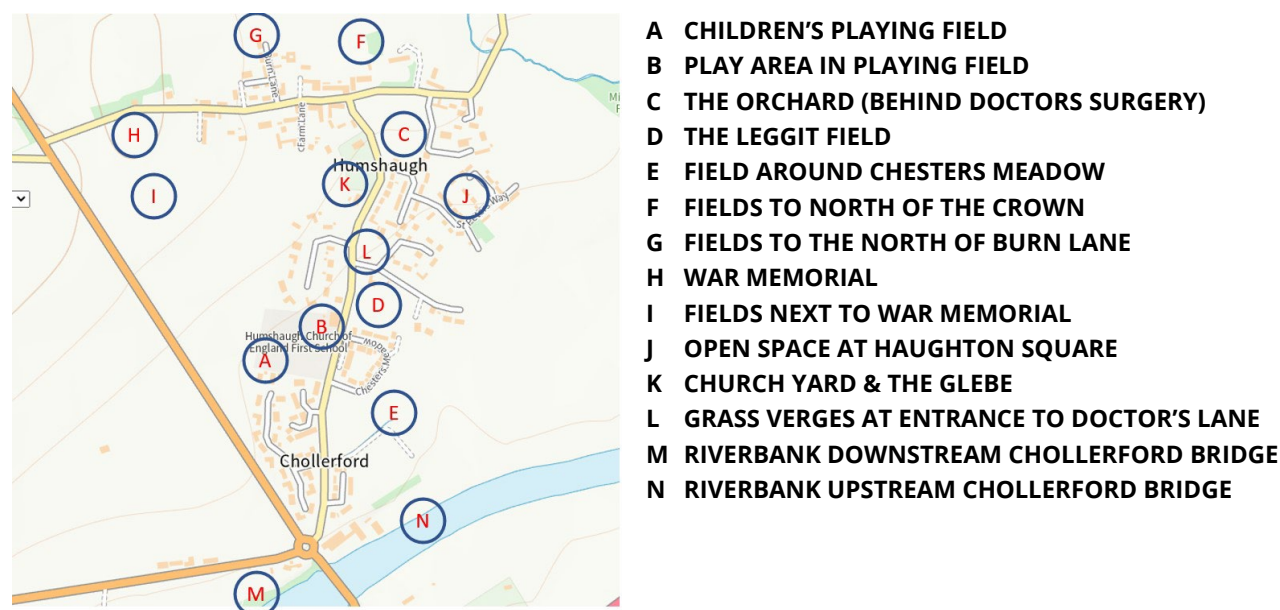


Figure 2 Location of Green Spaces

|                              | <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>D</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>F</b> | <b>G</b> |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Recreational value</b>    | 97%      | 93%      | 12%      | 7%       | 14%      | 56%      | 48%      |
| <b>Richness of wildlife</b>  | 19%      | 10%      | 54%      | 44%      | 66%      | 62%      | 66%      |
| <b>Historic significance</b> | 12%      | 10%      | 34%      | 22%      | 13%      | 14%      | 17%      |
| <b>Tranquillity</b>          | 21%      | 8%       | 49%      | 46%      | 51%      | 62%      | 66%      |
| <b>Beauty</b>                | 19%      | 6%       | 53%      | 43%      | 37%      | 57%      | 59%      |

|                              | <b>H</b> | <b>I</b> | <b>J</b> | <b>K</b> | <b>L</b> | <b>M</b> | <b>N</b> |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Recreational value</b>    | 14%      | 13%      | 28%      | 18%      | 20%      | 39%      | 50%      |
| <b>Richness of wildlife</b>  | 12%      | 54%      | 21%      | 47%      | 25%      | 54%      | 55%      |
| <b>Historic significance</b> | 84%      | 20%      | 10%      | 72%      | 10%      | 39%      | 28%      |
| <b>Tranquillity</b>          | 60%      | 63%      | 34%      | 67%      | 28%      | 48%      | 50%      |
| <b>Beauty</b>                | 43%      | 54%      | 23%      | 54%      | 40%      | 51%      | 52%      |

## SUPPORT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

There was widespread support for renewable energy sources, including domestic solar powers (91%) and air & ground source heat pumps (72%), and large wind turbines (35%). Concern was raised about planning restrictions on installing solar power within the conservation area.

## **SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY SPACES TO ENHANCE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

More than 85% of the respondents support the development of community spaces to enhance the natural environment, mitigate the effects of climate change, support sustainability and/or provide learning opportunities.

## **WHICH COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES ARE IMPORTANT TO PROTECT**

Over 95% of responses supported protecting all existing community facilities and services – shop, surgery, village hall, school, and pub. Over 86% expressed support to protect the church and children's play area.

## **HOW DO RESIDENTS FIND OUT OR KEEP UP TO DATE ABOUT ACTIVITIES IN THE PARISH**

Word of mouth is clearly a key method for information sharing with the Broadsheet and the Parish Council Newsletter also being very important. Social media was used by less than 35% of respondents.

## **HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE PARISH**

It was clear that many residents have very serious concerns about the type of housing development taking place within the parish - large detached executive type housing proposed by developers. The survey highlighted support for the type of housing that would allow people to stay in their community such as starter homes or homes for first time buyers, and housing for older people.

Most respondents (87%) stated that their current home was suitable for their needs for the next 5 year.

## **VISITORS AND TOURISM**

An increase in day visitor was supported by 62% of respondents but only 28% supported more holiday accommodation.

Respondents wanted to encourage the use of the Hadrian's Wall footpath. This will encourage use of local businesses. There was support for improvement in key facilities and buildings, including the appearance of buildings on the approach to the parish.

## **TRAVEL TO ACCESS FACILITIES, TO WORK/STUDY AND TO SHOP**

Most respondents travelled more than 5 miles for leisure & social activities (83%), and main shopping (93%), and most used cars (89%). Less than 3% used bus services. Over 45% intend to purchase a battery electric vehicle in the next 10 years. More facilities for electric vehicle charging should be provided.

## **SUPPORT FOR MEASURES TO IMPROVE TRAVEL ROUTES**

There was strong support (75%) to develop safe walking and cycling routes in the village, including developing facilities for wheelchair users & mobility scooters. For cyclists, it was proposed that there should be more secure bike racks and electric bike charging.

## **TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The following issues were raised for consideration in the Neighbourhood Plan:

- Better transport links would encourage use of public transport and reduce car ownership within the parish.
- Using natural assets to create long distance footpaths, including down by the river.
- Preservation & enhancement of Green Spaces.
- More affordable housing required, should be designed to the highest standards.
- The climate emergency is real and we need real action such as a community solar farm and a large community wind farm.
- Conservation is not preservation, a significant part of the village is a conservation area which needs to be respected, but it is not a preservation area to be locked up by the past. The village is a community of people, much more than just buildings, roads and spaces. The village must adapt and incorporate the ever-changing demands and circumstances, but all in fair proportion.