



Northumberland

County Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Enquiries to: Lesley Little

Email: Lesley.Little@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel direct: 01670 622614

Date: Thursday 28 April 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **CASTLE MORPETH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL** to be held in **MEETING SPACE - BLOCK 1, FLOOR 2 - COUNTY HALL** on **MONDAY, 9 MAY 2022 at 4.00 PM.**

Yours faithfully

Daljit Lally
Chief Executive

To Castle Morpeth Local Area Council members as follows:-

D Towns (Vice-Chair), L Dunn, D Bawn, J Beynon (Chair), S Dickinson, R Dodd, J Foster (Vice-Chair (Planning)), P Jackson, V Jones, G Sanderson, R Wearmouth, L Darwin and M Murphy

Any member of the press or public may view the proceedings of this meeting live on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/NorthumberlandTV>. Members of the press and public may tweet, blog etc during the live broadcast as they would be able to during a regular Committee meeting.

Members are referred to the risk assessment, previously circulated, for meetings held in County Hall. Masks should be worn when moving round but can be removed when seated, social distancing should be maintained and hand sanitiser regularly used.



Daljit Lally, Chief Executive
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AGENDA

PART I

It is expected that the matters included in this part of the agenda will be dealt with in public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES

(Pages 1
- 18)

Minutes of the meetings of the Castle Morpeth Local Area Council held on Monday 14 February 2022 and Monday 14 March 2022, as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest) they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 4 July 2012, and are reminded that if they have any personal interests of a prejudicial nature (as defined under paragraph 17 of the Code Conduct) they must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room. NB Any member needing clarification must contact the monitoring officer by email at monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk. Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

To reply to any questions received from members of the public which have been submitted in writing in advance of the meeting. Questions can be asked about issues for which the Council has a responsibility. (Public question times take place on a bimonthly basis at Local Area Council meetings: in January, March, May, July, September and November each year.)

As agreed by the County Council in February 2012, the management of local public question times is at the discretion of the chair of the committee.

Please note however that a question may possibly be rejected if it requires the disclosure of any categories of confidential or exempt information, namely information:

1. relating to any individual;
2. which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual;
3. relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person
4. relating to any labour relations matters/negotiations;
5. restricted to legal proceedings
6. about enforcement/enacting legal orders

7. relating to the prevention, investigation of prosecution of crime.

And/or:

- is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- it is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of this or another County Council committee in the past six months;
- the request repeats an identical or very similar question from the same person;
- the cost of providing an answer is disproportionate;
- it is being separately addressed through the Council's complaints process;
- it is not about a matter for which the Council has a responsibility or which affects the county;
- it relates to planning, licensing and/or other regulatory applications
- it is a question that town/parish councils would normally be expected to raise through other channels.

If the Chair is of the opinion that a question is one which for whatever reason, cannot properly be asked in an area meeting, he/she will disallow it and inform the resident of his/her decision.

Copies of any written answers (without individuals' personal contact details) will be provided for members after the meeting and also be publicly available.

Democratic Services will confirm the status of the progress on any previously requested written answers and follow up any related actions requested by the Local Area Council.

5. PETITIONS

(Pages
19 - 24)

This item is to:

- (a) Receive any new petitions:** to receive any new petitions. The lead petitioner is entitled to briefly introduce their petition by providing a statement in writing, and a response to any petitions received will then be organised for a future meeting;
- (b) Consider reports on petitions previously received:**
 - i. Petition - Speed Reduction Northern Bypass - St Georges roundabout - Northgate roundabout, Morpeth**
- (c) Receive any updates on petitions for which a report was previously considered:** any updates will be verbally reported at the meeting.

6. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES

To receive a verbal update from the Area Managers from Technical Services and Neighbourhood Services in attendance about any key recent, ongoing and/or future planned Local Services work for the attention of members of the Local Area Council, who will also then have the opportunity to raise issues with the Area Managers.

The Area Managers have principal responsibility for highway services and environmental services, such as refuse collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance, within the geographic boundaries of the Local Area Council.

7. MEMBERS LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

(Pages
25 - 52)

An update on the progress of Members Local Improvement Schemes in the Castle Morpeth Area is provided for information.

8. LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME

(Pages
53 - 58)

To note the latest version of agreed items for future Local Area Council meetings (any suggestions for new agenda items will require confirmation by the Business Chair after the meeting).

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting (Planning only) will be held on Monday, 13 June 2022.

10. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair, should, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST AT THIS MEETING, PLEASE:

- Declare it and give details of its nature before the matter is discussion or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- Complete this sheet and pass it to the Democratic Services Officer.

Name (please print):
Meeting:
Date:
Item to which your interest relates:
Nature of Registerable Personal Interest i.e either disclosable pecuniary interest (as defined by Annex 2 to Code of Conduct or other interest (as defined by Annex 3 to Code of Conduct) (please give details):
Nature of Non-registerable Personal Interest (please give details):
Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?

1. Registerable Personal Interests – You may have a Registerable Personal Interest if the issue being discussed in the meeting:

a) relates to any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (as defined by Annex 1 to the Code of Conduct); or

b) any other interest (as defined by Annex 2 to the Code of Conduct)

The following interests are Disclosable Pecuniary Interests if they are an interest of either you or your spouse or civil partner:

(1) Employment, Office, Companies, Profession or vocation; (2) Sponsorship; (3) Contracts with the Council; (4) Land in the County; (5) Licences in the County; (6) Corporate Tenancies with the Council; or (7) Securities - interests in Companies trading with the Council.

The following are other Registerable Personal Interests:

(1) any body of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management) to which you are appointed or nominated by the Council; (2) any body which (i) exercises functions of a public nature or (ii) has charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management); or (3) any person from whom you have received within the previous three years a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of more than £50 which is attributable to your position as an elected or co-opted member of the Council.

2. Non-registerable personal interests - You may have a non-registerable personal interest when you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are, or ought reasonably to be, aware that a decision in relation to an item of business which is to be transacted might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well being or financial position, or the well being or financial position of a person described below to a greater extent than most inhabitants of the area affected by the decision.

The persons referred to above are: (a) a member of your family; (b) any person with whom you have a close association; or (c) in relation to persons described in (a) and (b), their employer, any firm in which they are a partner, or company of which they are a director or shareholder.

3. Non-participation in Council Business

When you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are aware that the criteria set out below are satisfied in relation to any matter to be considered, or being considered at that meeting, you must : (a) Declare that fact to the meeting; (b) Not participate (or further participate) in any discussion of the matter at the meeting; (c) Not participate in any vote (or further vote) taken on the matter at the meeting; and (d) Leave the room whilst the matter is being discussed.

The criteria for the purposes of the above paragraph are that: (a) You have a registerable or non-registerable personal interest in the matter which is such that a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would reasonably think it so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest; **and either** (b) the matter will affect the financial position of yourself or one of the persons or bodies referred to above or in any of your register entries; **or** (c) the matter concerns a request for any permission, licence, consent or registration sought by yourself or any of the persons referred to above or in any of your register entries.

This guidance is not a complete statement of the rules on declaration of interests which are contained in the Members' Code of Conduct. If in any doubt, please consult the Monitoring Officer or relevant Democratic Services Officer before the meeting.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
CASTLE MORPETH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

At the meeting of the **Castle Morpeth Local Area Council** held in the Meeting Space, Block 1 Floor 2, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF on Monday 14 February 2022 at 4.00 pm.

PRESENT

J Foster (Vice-Chair) (Planning) (in the Chair)

MEMBERS

Bawn D
Dodd RR
Dunn L

Jones V
Sanderson G
Wearmouth R

OFFICERS

Bowers H
Craig A

Crowe T
Laux D
McKenzie R

Murfin R
Wood T

Democratic Services Officer
Programme Officer, Highways
Maintenance
Solicitor
Head of Technical Services
Senior Programme Officer, Highways
Improvement
Executive Director, Planning & Economy
Principal Planning Officer

3 members of the public were in attendance

84. PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED FOR THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

J Foster, Vice-Chair (Planning) (in the Chair) outlined the procedure which would be followed at the meeting.

85. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Darwin, Dickinson, Jackson, Murphy and Towns

86. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Castle Morpeth Local Area Council held on Monday 8 November 2021 and Monday 10 January 2022, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.

87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Beynon declared a personal interest in planning application 20/02049/FUL and would take no part in the determination of the application.

Councillor Beynon left the meeting at 4.04 pm.

88. DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The report requested the Committee to decide the planning applications attached to the report using the powers delegated to it. Members were reminded of the principles which should govern their consideration of the applications, the procedure for handling representations, the requirement of conditions and the need for justifiable reasons for the granting of permission or refusal of planning applications.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

89. 20/02094/FUL

Remove green keeper's compound and erection of 48 dwellings (including 10 affordable houses) plus upgrade of access road, electric substation, SUDs, domestic package treatment works and domestic gas storage – amended description.

Land west of Burgham Park Golf Club, Burgham Park, Felton, Northumberland.

Tamsin Wood provided updates from Public Protection in relation to the following conditions which should be amended to read:-

Condition 18

If during development contamination not previously considered within any statement/report that has received the approval of the Planning Authority is identified, then a written Method Statement regarding this material shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority - the written Method Statement should be written by a competent person. No building shall be occupied until a Method Statement has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, and measures proposed to deal with the contamination have been carried out. (Should no contamination be found during development then the applicant shall submit a signed statement indicating this to discharge this condition). Competent person has the same definition as defined within the NPPF.

Condition 19

No building shall be constructed above damp proof course level until a report detailing the protective measures to prevent the ingress of ground gases, including depleted Oxygen (<19%), to the CS2 standard specified in BS8485:2015 (Code of Practice for the design of protective measures for Methane and Carbon Dioxide ground gases for new buildings) have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The aforementioned report must also detail to the Local Planning Authority's satisfaction how the annulus of service ducts will be sealed to prevent gas ingress into the living space of the dwelling. Furthermore, the report shall contain full details of the validation and verification assessment to be undertaken on the installed ground gas protection, as detailed in CIRIA C735 (Good practice on the testing and verification of protection systems for buildings against hazardous ground gases)

Condition 20

No building shall be brought into use or occupied until the applicant has submitted a validation and verification report to the approved methodology in Condition 19 which has been approved in writing by the LPA.

Condition 25

Prior to the first occupation of the development, a verification report carried out by a qualified drainage engineer or suitably qualified professional must be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority, to demonstrate that all sustainable drainage systems for the dwelling to be occupied have been constructed as per the agreed scheme. This verification report shall include *As built drawings for all SuDS components – including dimensions (base levels, inlet/outlet elevations, areas, depths, lengths, diameters, gradients etc); *Construction details (component drawings, materials vegetation); * Health and Safety file: and *Details of ownership.

Ms Wood continued to introduce the application with the aid of a power point presentation.

Following the presentation, Rob Murfin, Executive Director of Planning and Economy informed the committee that this was a highly unusual application and officers had tried to establish the most appropriate way to deal with the application. There were 3 important elements of logic:-

1. Whether or not development would take place on the site, was not what members were considering today. There were extant permissions for holiday related development and residential development. If the application was a fresh application with no fall back, it would not be supported as the development was in a Green Belt area and not in accordance with open countryside or with the existing or new Northumberland Plan.

2. Whether the fall back could be considered as very special circumstances, and if the harm had been reduced.
3. Permission had been granted originally with the support of the Parish Council, explicitly on the basis of the site being tourism holiday homes. At that time, it was made clear that a straight residential permission would not be granted and historically applications had been refused.

Mr Murfin continued that the position now was that despite the best efforts of the developer, the site had not proved to be a good location for holiday lets and residential type developments that were not usually allowed, were being granted. The original consent came with conditions about not being used for residential development. Equally, given that the use was not in question, the Green Belt had been addressed. Finally, the county was seeing a huge growth in staycations.

Members were advised that the application could be approved subject to conditions or refused on the basis of the principle of the permission had been granted originally for holiday use.

Constanze Bell, Barrister, Kings Chamber representing Kirsty and Tony Wells and Rebecca and Brian Allcock addressed the Committee speaking in objection to the application. Her comments included the following information:

- The harm to the Green Belt carried great weight.
- The fallback, if it was a fallback, attracted negligible weight and was not less harmful to openness in any event.
- Harm to the Green Belt was not clearly outweighed, very special circumstances were not established.
- Other further harms were present – location/sustainability and design/character of the area.
- Permission should be refused for all of the above reasons.
- Extant planning permissions: the construction of 42 permanent holiday homes (being the balance of holiday homes not yet constructed of the 50 that had extant planning permission) and 14 permanent executive homes.
- The applicant argued that the proposal caused less harm to the openness of the Green Belt than the extant planning permissions because it had a materially smaller footprint and volume. The material improvement was said to constitute Very Special Circumstances.
- The original plans had only been approved based on enabling development. Proceeds were to be reinvested into a golf complex benefiting the golfers, resident and local community. No enabling development argument was presented in the current case.

Richard Sagar, Walker Morris, representing Cussins, addressed the Committee speaking in support of the application. His comments included the following:-

- There was a simple logic why the approved 2 live applications allowed 42 properties to be built.
- 14 executive homes were to be built, in comparison, which would reduce impact
- The beneficial impact should be given substantial weight for approval just as harm to the Green Belt should be given approval, so should improvement, which was what the proposal delivered.
- Comparing live permissions of 56, the proposed application was for 48 properties, which was a reduction of 14%.
- The 2 storey spaces were reduced by 28% and a material improvement to openness.
- The difference in use would be modest.
- Fallback did not need to be certain in law, the cost of building future homes would ensure they were deliverable.
- Holiday homes had increased over the last 2 years since the Saville report.
- The golf club owners had a current interest in the holiday accommodation and could sell the remaining 42 units. There was a clear fallback position.
- The golf club preferred the newer scheme as it would provide a better return and would receive receipt from sale of land and invest and deliver improvement which would sustain and have a better future for the club.
- By reducing harm to the environment and Green Belt, there was ample weight to improving openness.
- Officers had carefully assessed and taken legal advice in relation to the fallback position and the judgement had to be fully endorsed.

In response to comments from Members of the Committee the following information was provided:-

- The application for this scheme related to converting a mixed use scheme of holiday accommodation and residential to purely a residential scheme. It was to be noted that conditions were attached for holiday accommodation only. In terms of large-scale development, eg, caravan parks etc, applications were normally resisted for conversion to holiday lets, however, this application was unusual because of the fallback position and the realistic prospect of the fall back being implemented.
- A S106 would be required as part of the scheme.
- Affordable housing would be on site with a mix of shared ownership.
- Every site was different however, when planning had originally been granted, it was only for tourism related development and latterly for tourism and residential to support the golf club. There was not a general rule of precedent, however, decisions could be challenged if material considerations had been given unreasonable weight.
- Members needed to look at the issue of fallback and decide which scheme caused less harm to the Green Belt and the granting to a full residential consent.

- The details of the shared ownership party would be worked through with the Council Housing Enabling Officers.
- There was no bus service or footpath along the road in Longhorsley.
- The site was not ideally located in terms of services and as set out in the report considered to be in an unsustainable location in the open countryside.
- If permission was granted and no development took place after 3 years, permission could lapse but would be dependent on circumstances at that time. If this scheme was refused, the alternative extant consents scheme could be built.
- The applicant had demonstrated that holiday homes for sale had been marketed for some time with little success. There had been a slow uptake demonstrating that the consented use of the site not worked to date.
- Members needed to ask themselves was it reasonable to build something explicitly aimed at holiday homes, if not ideal and replace with residential.
- At the moment, the viability to work as a holiday development was a much narrower margin with lack of success in the past, the developer was of the opinion that to give better quality of development made more sense to go for a residential development.
- The new proposals were very clearly a residential development. The issue was the build form under the holiday permission using properties aimed at the holiday market, whereas the new scheme was an honest interpretation of what the build form would look like and using larger houses so would appear more built out. The developer had been pushed to demonstrate the reduction in harm.
- Members should take into consideration whether the fallback was sufficient. The developer had said that the location was not right for holiday homes in terms of the Northumberland market. The former planning policy had allowed for the grant of the holiday lets where residential could not be built.
- The developer had provided information that they had marketed appropriately.

Councillor Wearmouth moved refusal for the following reasons:-

1. There was no benefit in terms of openness and the site was not considered to be in a suitable location which was contrary to Local Plan policy C1 and H16. It was not close to services and in an unsustainable location.
2. The developer had not provided sufficient detail to demonstrate the scheme would be less valuable as a holiday scheme and would cause less potential harm to the development.
3. The proposed plans did not demonstrate a reduction to harm to the Greenbelt and as such no very special circumstances were demonstrated to exist compared to extant permissions. Therefore it was considered to be inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

Precise wording of the refusal reasons were to be agreed with the Planning Chair in conjunction with the Executive Director of Planning and Place.

Councillor Bawn seconded the motion.

Members expressed opinions that the houses had been agreed to allow the Golf Club to flourish. A more imaginative scheme would be preferable due to the huge demand for good quality holiday homes. The original planning application in 2010 had been very controversial and the application should be brand new. The existing plan did not demonstrate that very special circumstances existed to overcome harm to the greenbelt. The location was considered unsustainable as there were no services available and applications such as these were normally refused.

The golf club were wished well but it was acknowledged that the proposal did not accord with planning policy.

A vote was taken on the motion to refuse the application as follows:
UNANIMOUS.

90. APPEALS UPDATE

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

A short recess was taken at this point and Councillor Dodd left. The meeting reconvened at 5.21 pm.

91. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME 2022/23

The report set out details of the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP) programme for 2022-23 for consideration and comment by the Local Area Council, prior to final approval of the programme by the Interim Executive Director of Planning and Local Services in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Environment and Local Services.

The Local Transport Plan grant allocation was determined for the Council by the Department of Transport (DfT) who had yet to announce the capital allocations for 2022/23. At this stage, an indicative figure of just over £23 million had been assumed.

The Council's Local Transport Plan would consist of improvements and maintenance schemes to address four key areas – walking and cycling; safety; roads; and bridges, structures and landslips. Identifying road safety issues included consideration of priorities put forward by the County Council and Parish and Town Councils last year. Appendices A – D set out the details of the programme.

The walking and cycling allocation was split between improvements for crossings, footpaths, bus stops and the design of permanent pedestrianisation in Alnwick, and maintenance of footways and cycleways and maintenance of the rights of way network.

The Council continued with its initiative for the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans known as LCWIPs for the main towns in Northumberland and this would be consulted on in the near future.

It had been noted that a number of County Councillors and Parish and Town Councils had put forward priorities for the introduction of new cycleways and footways, which had been considered beyond the funding available through the LTP programme. The details of those had been but captured separately so they could be considered for any future sources of external funding. The details of the LTP Walking and Cycling Programme was set out in Appendix A, attached to the report.

Integrated Transport Programme and funding generally was concentrated to the safety of the highway network. £695,000 was aimed at reducing the number and severity of road traffic casualties through a programme of local safety schemes.

The implementation of the 20 mph outside of schools would continue and £500,000 had been allocated to complete the programme. 107 schemes had been completed with a further 10 that had been issued for design. An allocation of £350,000 had been made for refurbishment and renewal of existing signage and road markings.

A range of maintenance activities including resurfacing, patching, surface dressing, micro surfacing together with allocations through capital repairs for drainage and traffic signals was developed through asset management principles.

In addition to the LTP programme, the Council were planning to invest a £2m programme on U and C roads. Details of the draft Roads Programme was attached as Appendix C.

An allocation of over £2 million had been made for bridge maintenance which included a programme of bridge strengthening and remained a key objective.

An allocation of £2,423,000 for landslips would enable stabilisation work to prevent deterioration and loss of use of the network with a major scheme at Todstead with a cost of £9.3 million and funded by NCC. Details attached as Appendix D.

In response to questions from Members, the following comment were made:-

- Lynemouth schools were included in the safer street for schools programme and details would be shared with the Local Member.
- A site visit could be arranged with the Local Member, Officers and Portfolio Holder regarding the bridge and Ellington/Linton
- The Authority had its own Sign Shop which was more cost effective and comments were taken on board regarding the signs.
- Officers were commended on an excellent report.

Councillor Sanderson left the meeting at 5.39 pm.

- Items on the reserve list would be looked into and be subject to discussion with senior management and the portfolio holder.
- A list of schools for the 20 mph for the CBSV LAC area would be circulated to members
- Mr Laux would discuss Riverbank Road with officers. Riverbank Road had not been included as a priority last year, but would be considered in the U and C roads for next year
- The Senior Programme Officer would investigate why traffic calming had not been considered suitable at Front Street, Ellington.

The Officers were thanked for the report and their attendance.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

CHAIR

DATE

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NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
CASTLE MORPETH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

At the meeting of the **Castle Morpeth Local Area Council** held at Meeting Space - Block 1, Floor 2 - County Hall on Monday, 14 March 2022 at 4.00 pm.

PRESENT

J Beynon (Chair) (in the Chair)

MEMBERS

J Foster
R R Dodd
P Jackson

V Jones
M Murphy
D Towns (part)
R Wearmouth

OFFICERS

J Blenkinsopp
H Bowers
M King
P Lowes
J Murphy
R Soulsby

Solicitor
Democratic Services Officer
Highways Delivery Area Manager
Neighbourhood Delivery Area Manager
Development Manager – South East
Planning Officer

92. PROCEDURE AT PLANNING MEETINGS

J Foster, Vice-Chair (Planning) (in the Chair) outlined the procedure which would be followed at the meeting.

93. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bawn, Darwin, Sanderson and Towns for lateness.

94. DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The report requested the Committee to decide the planning applications attached to the report using the powers delegated to it. Members were reminded of the principles which should govern their consideration of the applications, the procedure for handling representations, the requirement of conditions and the need for justifiable reasons for the granting of permission or refusal of planning applications.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

95. 21/03918/FUL

Proposed demolition of Storey Park Community Centre, Storey Park Community Centre, St Mary's Field, High Church, Morpeth, NE61 2QF

Ryan Soulsby, Planning Officer provided an update to condition 3 in relation to noisy working times, these were to be removed as the working times would be secured by a Demolition Method Statement which formed part of the approved plans listed in Condition 2 – hours of work 8:00 am to 4.30 pm with no weekend working.

The Planning Officer continued to introduce the application with the aid of a power point presentation.

Hannah Wafer, George F White addressed the Committee, speaking in support of the application. Her comments included the following information:

- The building had originally been built in the 1950s and owned by the County Council with the ownership later transferred in 2020 to Morpeth Town Council.
- The building had fallen into disrepair and due to the significant costs to bring the building up to standard, the decision had been made to close Storey Park.
- Some residents had been disappointed at the closure and had requested that the building be identified as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) and the building was listed as an ACV in March 2021.
- The designation did provide some protection to the building; however, it did not prevent its demolition or suitable redevelopment.
- Prior to its closure, the community centre had only been used at approximately 25% of its potential capacity and it had not been considered appropriate use of public funds to undertake such repair work.
- The emerging Northumberland Plan provided guidance which affected assets of community value, and it was considered that the demolition wholly complied with the policy with the addition that there was alternative facilities including the newly refurbished St James Community Centre.
- Whilst the proposal was to demolish the building, there was no intention to redevelopment the land
- She asked that members grant permission of the demolition of the community centre building.

Councillor Richard Wearmouth addressed the Committee as Ward Member. His comments included the following:-

- The decision to the application to demolish the community centre had not been taken lightly
- There was other provision elsewhere within the town
- The building was in a state which could not be economically developed
- If funding were to become available in future, the site could come back to use, but there were no plans to do that
- Every opportunity had been explored to try to develop the building further
- He supported the recommendations made by officers.

Councillor Wearmouth then withdrew from the meeting.

In response to comments from Members of the Committee the following information was provided:-

- The proposed site plan marked the land to be used as hardstanding area after demolition. If there were plans for development in the future, it would be subject to whoever owned the site.
- After the building was demolished, the site would not be recognised as an ACV and become a brownfield site. It would be up to the owner to determine what to do with it in the future.

Councillor Dodd proposed acceptance of the officer's recommendation to grant permission as outlined in the Officer report, which was seconded by Councillor Beynon.

Councillor Jackson stated that the building was unsafe and inoperable, there had been substantial investment in the community over the years and he hoped that the site would remain in public ownership for any future development.

A vote was taken on the proposal to accept the officer's recommendation to grant permission as outlined in the report and was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the application be **GRANTED** permission for the reasons and with the conditions as outlined in the report.

96. APPEALS UPDATE

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

A short recess was taken at this point during which time Councillor Towns and Wearmouth joined the meeting. The meeting recommenced with Councillor Beynon in the Chair.

97. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions had been submitted.

98. PETITIONS

This item was to:

a) Receive any new petitions:

- i) Speed Reduction Northern Bypass – St Georges roundabout – Northgate roundabout, Morpeth**

It was noted that a new e-petition had been opened on 2 February 2022 on the Council's website. A report would be prepared for a future meeting.

Councillor Towns explained the background to the issue and explained the reason why the petition had come forward. He was unhappy that he had not been able to contact officers in Highways and asked when the report was brought back that the committee look at the wider issues of road safety in that area. He hoped that Highways would meet to discuss the speeding issues.

b) Consider reports on petitions previously received:

None received

c) To consider updates on petitions previously considered:

There were none to consider.

Councillor Dodd queried a petition regarding the Military Road between Stagshaw and Heddon on the Wall. Democratic Services would follow up with the relevant officer.

99. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES

Neighbourhood Services

Paul Lowes, Neighbourhood Services Area Manager provided the following updates:-

Grounds Maintenance

- Winter works were drawing to a close.
- A mild winter had helped teams recover some ground lost to storms and were on target to complete all scheduled winter works tasks.
- Teams continued to work a 28 hour week during the winter period. Progress through scheduled work had been a challenge but ultimately successful.
- He requested members contacted him if they believed any requested work had not been completed.
- Grass cutting would be starting soon and preparation had been made
- All grass cutting equipment had either been serviced or was scheduled to be serviced.
- Interviews had been carried out for seasonal grounds maintenance positions for this year and working through the recruitment process.
- Weed control activities would be undertaken in-house again this year
- Blue dye would be used for weed killing this year and it had been well received pre-pandemic.

Street Cleansing

- It was anticipated that the increase in footfall experienced last year (due to the pandemic, staycation) would reduce this year, which should ease pressure on cleansing teams.

Waste

- Residual and recycling
 - Business as usual for waste collection services
 - Elevated tonnages from households were still being received following the pandemic due to people working from home
 - Due to the rate of housing growth in recent years, the waste service will see additional investment this year of 2 additional RCVs and crew
 - Work was underway to evaluate existing demands on the service and plan routes to ensure these resources were deployed in the most efficient way possible
 - Garden waste collection had started
 - Increased housing and customer numbers had means additional tweaking of rounds had been required to accommodate the increase
 - Initial take up for the service was high, the scheme remains as popular as ever

Additional Information

- The glass trial had been extended by 12 months. Presentation rates and yields remained encouraging in most areas.
- A food waste collection trial was currently being planned and members would be provided with more information on the trial when plans were finalised.

In response to members' comments, the following information was provided:-

- Extra contractors had been helping the Tree teams to help with storm damage.
- A meeting and site visit would be arranged with residents to hopefully resolve the situation of residents having to wheel their bins to the end of their lane.
- There had been no problems with recruitment.
- It was hoped to run food waste collections in line with the glass waste collections.
- Mr Lowes would report back on the issues at Choppington Woods.
- Additional cuts to parishes were given the opportunity to have early cuts, there should be no reduction to cuts during the season.
- Arrangements would be made to clean the cycle path between Lynemouth and Woodhorn.
- The Tree Officer was aware of the problem with the tree referred to. Neighbourhood Services and the Trees and Woodlands Team would have to work together to try and solve the problem.
- Concerns with fly-tipping were shared and the team would do their best
- A report could be provided on the number of parish councils taking up the additional cuts.
- The Glass Trial related to Government Plans and needed to be line with national legislation. Further information would be brought back to the committee.

Highways

Mr King provided an update on progress with the delivery of Highways works:-

- Teams were currently undertaking Cat 1 works while they continued with the catch the catch up from recent storms
- Routine inspections were ongoing, however, there was a slight backlog
- Reactive third party requests continued to rise higher than any other area
- Backlog of works continues to be reduced; introduction of 2 hotboxes with a reported 4800 completed within the last 3 month period
- A major scheme at Goosehill was moving forward. Issues with contaminated waste and drainage which had now been resolved.

All LTP works had been completed for this year, save for North Road, Ponteland and work had been completed in minor patching.

Gully maintenance

- New routes had been identified and it was proposed to introduce these from February, this would provide backup data for frequency.
- New vehicles were arriving with a proposed roll out for April, training required for operatives before vehicle roll out.

Drainage works

- A large amount of drainage works had been identified and a programme of works had been issued and ongoing. Works were still being identified from storm damage with a number of areas requiring clearing of debris which was the main cause of blockages. Works were currently being programmed for post April start date with all works communicated prior to start date.

In response to members' comments, the following information was provided:-

- It was expected that the car park at Goosehill would be completed at the end of Autumn, the land contamination had delayed the completion date
- The issue regarding HGVs using the road from Berwick Hill towards Kirkley was a matter for the police
- The comment regarding wagons travelling through Ponteland would be taken up with the Traffic and Road Safety Team.
- Thanks were conveyed to the Highways Team for the refresh of road markings in Lynemouth
- Councillor Wearmouth would seek clarification regarding the draft LTP query. (Democratic Services to remind).
- A date would be provided for the traffic calming measures at Ellington.
- 4800 potholes had been completed in just over 3 months.

The Officers were thanked for their updates.

100. LOCAL AREA COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair advised that this was for information and should Members wish to ask for any items to be added to the agenda, then they contact either himself or Democratic Services.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

101. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday 11 April 2022.

CHAIR.....

DATE.....

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CASTLE MORPETH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL
DATE: 9TH MAY 2022

PETITION – REQUEST FOR A REDUCED SPEED LIMIT AND SAFER CROSSING FACILITY ON MORPETH NORTHERN BYPASS BETWEEN NORTHGATE ROUNDABOUT AND ST GEORGES ROUNDABOUT

Report of: Service Director - Local Services, Paul Jones

Cabinet Member: John Riddle, Environment and Local Services

Purpose of report

To respond to the petition which was delivered to County Hall in March 2022 regarding road safety concerns on the Morpeth Northern Bypass.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Local Area Council note the content of this report and support the actions proposed.

Link to Corporate Plan

How - “We want to be efficient, open and work for everyone”

Enjoying - “We want you to love where you live”

Connecting - “We want you to have access to the things you need”

Key Issues

1. A petition has been received raising road safety concerns for pedestrians crossing the Morpeth Northern Bypass near the Northgate Roundabout.
2. The petition requests a reduced speed limit between the Northgate Roundabout and St George’s roundabout, and a safer crossing point.
3. The petition has been signed by 325 signatories.
4. A safe route to school assessment will be carried out. This will identify any improvements which may be required to improve the safety of the routes to the various schools in Morpeth, in particular at the existing crossing point at the Northgate Roundabout.
5. Consideration will be given to a reduced speed limit if this is deemed appropriate following the safe route to school assessment.

Background

The Petition

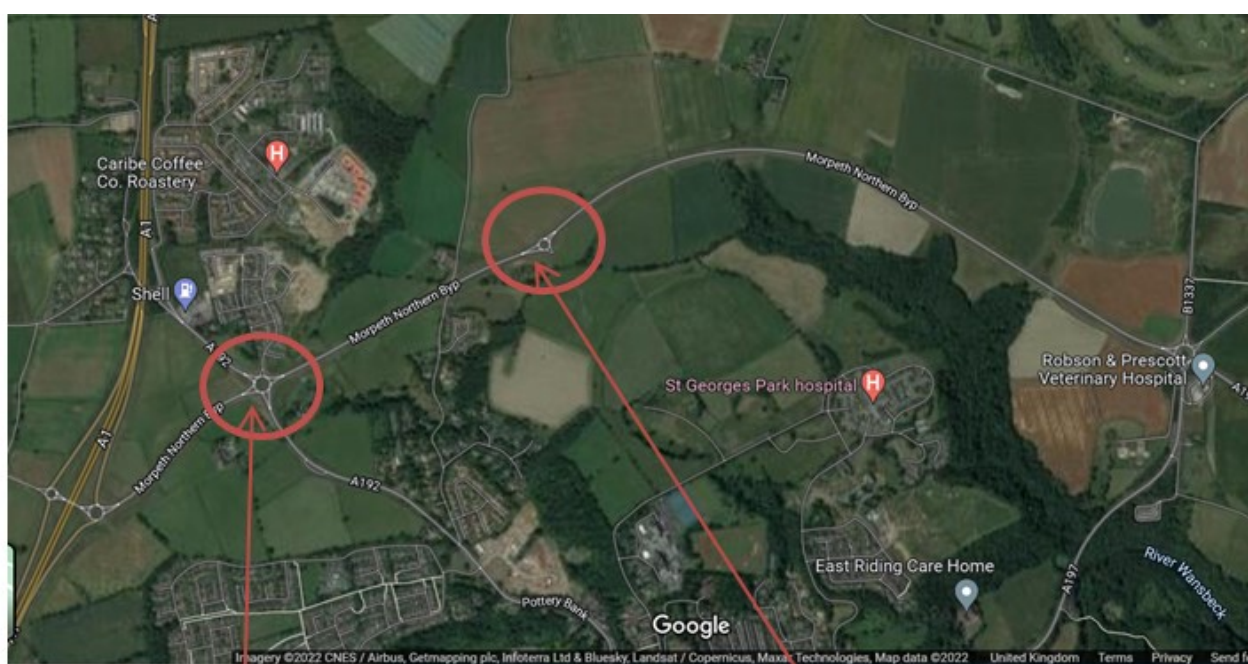
The County Council has received a 325-name petition stating that :-

“Parents are concerned about the crossing on the bypass road between St George’s roundabout and Northgate roundabout as being dangerous for school children to cross on a daily basis on their way to and from school

We are asking that the speed limit along that part of the bypass be reduced and also a safer crossing point than the current one is considered.

There are in excess of 500 houses across the two estates. In addition, with the Northgate Hospital site expanding and an extra 400 extra staff working on the site (which incidentally will increase the number of people using this crossing as patients go out with staff), plus plans for over 800 houses off the St George’s roundabout, traffic along the bypass road both in and out of Morpeth and onto the A1 will increase dramatically.

Parents already think this is dangerous and it's only a matter of time before someone is hurt or worse”.



Northgate Roundabout

St George’s Roundabout

Plan showing Morpeth Northern Bypass

Comments

Northumberland County Council would like to thank the lead petitioner for their work in putting the petition together, we sympathise with the issues raised and understand concerns with regards to vehicles speeds and the fact that further housing development is planned.

The Morpeth Northern Bypass opened in April 2017 and adjacent housing to the north of it has developed further since this time. A 30mph speed limit is currently in place in the village of Fairmoor which lies to the north of the Northgate roundabout, with the speed limit on the bypass and around the Northgate roundabout being derestricted 60mph. This also includes the Fennel Way access to The Meadows housing estate which joins the roundabout.

While a safer crossing point has been requested, each leg of the Northgate Roundabout does have existing splitter islands. These already offer a safe crossing point for pedestrians. These features should also assist in controlling vehicle speeds.

A pedestrian vehicle survey was carried out in May 2021 and this highlighted that the crossing is well used. The existing crossing points would be considered adequate for such a crossing. However, given that the petition focusses on the safety of children travelling to and from school, a safe route to school assessment will be carried out. This will identify any improvements which may be required to improve the safety of the routes to the various schools in Morpeth, with particular focus being at the existing crossing point nearest The Meadows estate.

This assessment may suggest that improved traffic signs and road markings are required, while consideration will also be given to whether or not a reduced speed limit is appropriate.



Splitter Island off Northgate Roundabout (heading to St George's Roundabout)

Accident Data

According to accident casualty data from Northumbria Police, since the Morpeth Northern Bypass opened there have been no personal injury accidents at Northgate Roundabout. There have been two personal injury collisions on the overall length between Northgate Roundabout and St Georges Roundabout, including the roundabouts themselves. These

both occurred at St George's Roundabout, one was "serious" and one "slight". None of the collisions involved pedestrians.

Proposed Actions

- A) A safe route to school assessment to be carried out. This will identify any improvements which may be required to improve the safety of the routes to the various schools in Morpeth, in particular at the existing crossing point at the Northgate Roundabout.
- B) A speed survey will be arranged to assess actual vehicle speeds.
- C) As part of the safe routes to school assessment, consideration will be given to whether a reduced speed limit would be appropriate.

Implications

Policy	The response to the issues raised in this petition is consistent with LTP Policies.
Finance and value for money	n/a
Legal	None
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None
Risk Assessment	n/a
Crime Disorder &	Driving at excessive speed is an offence which is only enforceable by the police.

Customer Consideration	Petition identifies various road safety issues, notably during school run times for school children crossing the road
Carbon reduction	n/a
Health and Wellbeing	Petition raises issues regarding road safety due to traffic speeds and road crossing.
Wards	Pegswood

Background papers:

None

Report sign off

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	N/A
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	N/A
Relevant Executive Director	Rob Murfin
Chief Executive	N/A
Portfolio Holder(s)	John Riddle

Author and Contact Details

Neil Snowdon – Principal Programme Officer (Highways Improvement Team)

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Castle Morpeth Local Area Council

Members local Improvement Schemes

2021 - 2022

Progress Report - 1st March 2022

[illegible]

Total Budget May 2021 - April 2022 £15,000.00

Actual Cost + Committed Cost to Date £11,788.49




Total Estimated Cost £14,210.71

Balance Remaining to 31/3/22 £ 3,211.51

KEY



	Approved Scheme Budget
	Proposed Scheme
	Completed Scheme / Final Cost

[illegible]

KEY	
	Approved Scheme Budget
	Proposed Scheme
	Completed Scheme / Final Cost

[illegible]

<div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Total Budget May 2021 - April 2022</div><div>£15,000.00</div></div><div><div></div><div>Actual Cost + Committed Cost to Date</div><div>£0.00</div></div><div><div></div><div>Total Estimated Cost</div><div>£0.00</div></div><div><div></div><div>Balance Remaining to 31/3/22</div><div>£ 15,000.00</div></div></div><div><div>KEY</div><div><div></div>Approved Scheme Budget</div><div><div></div>Proposed Scheme</div><div><div></div>Completed Scheme / Final Cost</div></div></div></div></div>						

 CIlr. S.J. Dickinson Members Schemes 2021 to 2025 Castle Morpeth - Druridge Bay Report Date 01/02/2022						 Northumberland County Council
Job Number	Scheme Description	Estimated Cost	Actual Cost	Current Status	Proposed Completion	Comments
2017 / 2018						
HO176324	Installation of dropped kerbs C118 Mile Road, Widdrington and U6084 Linhope Crescent, Hadston	£2,113.26	£2,113.26	completed	completed	H Works completed.
2017/064	Installation of new street lighting columns on footpath Y424/010 Widdrington Station to Grangewood Terrace, Stobswood	£0.00	£0.00			Cost estimates to be prepared.
2019 / 2020						
HO196588	Contribution towards footpath resurfacing U6105 Grange Court, Widdrington	£5,000.00	£6,931.58	completed	completed	Central Area scheme - budget increased by a further £1,931.58.
2020 / 2021						
HO206779	Traffic calming (Proposed 20mph speed limit) U6084 Ladyburn Way, The Dunes and surrounding area, Hadston - Phase 1	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	Design	TBA	Design brief issued.
2020/123	Installation of dropped kerbs, B1330 Hadston	£0.00	£0.00			Awaiting scheme estimate.
HO206846	Construction of new parking area, rear of Swarland Terrace, Red Row - Phase 1	£2,000.00	£2,438.88	completed	completed	Completed
HO206982	Contribution towards installation of new LED lighting at Grange View C of E First School, Widdrington	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	Accounts	TBA	Contribution to Grange View C of E First School, Widdrington not made yet.
HO206983	Contribution towards purchase and installation of 2No. new interactive speed signs, C118 Mile Road, Widdrington	£8,326.12	£8,326.12	Delivery	TBA	Highways Programme Team scheme.
2021 / 2022						
	Additional contribution to HO196588 footpath resurfacing U6105 Grange Court, Widdrington	£1,931.58	£1,931.58			Additional contribution to HO196588 for additional works at Grange Court, Widdrington.
2021SEP8	Contribution to materials for use by volunteers to reinstate the walled garden	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	completed	completed	Payment to Cresswell Pele Tower - Payment made directly by Finance Department on 5 November 2021.
HO210090	Contribution towards purchase and installation of 1No. new interactive speed sign at Cresswell	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	completed	completed	Contribution to Cresswell Parish Council made on 11 February 2022.
2021SEP11	Contribution to EYFS Outdoor Provision refurbishment	£2,000.00	£2,000.00			Payment to Broomhill First School - Payment to be yet made directly by Finance Department.

Total Budget May 2021 - April 2022 £15,000.00

Actual Cost + Committed Cost to Date £7,931.58

Total Estimated Cost £7,931.58

Balance Remaining to 31/3/21 £ 7,068.42

KEY

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Castle Morpeth - Lynemouth

Report Date 01/02/2022



 **Northumberland**
County Council

[illegible]

Total Budget May 2021 - April 2022	£15,000.00
Actual Cost + Committed Cost to Date	£4,000.00
Total Estimated Cost	£4,000.00
Balance Remaining to 31/3/22	£ 11,000.00

KEY

	Approved Scheme Budget
	Proposed Scheme
	Completed Scheme / Final Cost

Castle Morpeth - Stakeford

Report Date 01/02/2022



 **Northumberland**
County Council

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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<p>Total Budget May 2021 - April 2022 £15,000.00</p> <p>Actual Cost + Committed Cost to Date £6,500.00</p> <p>Total Estimated Cost £6,500.00</p> <p>Balance Remaining to 31/3/22 £ 8,500.00</p>		<p>KEY</p> <div> <div>Approved Scheme Budget</div> <div>Proposed Scheme</div> <div>Completed Scheme / Final Cost</div> </div>	
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<div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Total Budget May 2021 - April 2022</div><div>£15,000.00</div></div><div><div></div><div>Actual Cost + Committed Cost to Date</div><div>£0.00</div></div><div><div></div><div>Total Estimated Cost</div><div>£0.00</div></div><div><div></div><div>Balance Remaining to 31/3/22</div><div>£ 15,000.00</div></div></div><div><div>KEY</div><div><div></div><div>Approved Scheme Budget</div></div><div><div></div><div>Proposed Scheme</div></div><div><div></div><div>Completed Scheme / Final Cost</div></div></div></div></div></div>						

Castle Morpeth - Longhorsley

Report Date 01/02/2022



 **Northumberland**
County Council

[illegible]

[illegible]

Total Budget May 2021 - April 2022 £15,000.00

Actual Cost + Committed Cost to Date £11,000.00

Total Estimated Cost £11,000.00

Balance Remaining to 31/3/22 £ 4,000.00

KEY

	Approved Scheme Budget
	Proposed Scheme
	Completed Scheme / Final Cost

[illegible]

Castle Morpeth - Summary

	Number
A = Proposed Schemes	4

	Number	Original Estimated Cost	Current Estimate / Actual Cost	Totals
Total Budget May 2021 - Apr 2022				£195,000.00
Total Approved schemes	37	£321,779.54	£312,094.88	
Total Uncommitted Balance				-£46,647.76

Highway Scheme	18	£127,547.55	£122,711.66
External Contribution	16	£157,887.29	£157,441.90
	34	£285,434.84	£280,153.56

**Northumberland County Council
Castle Morpeth Local Area Council
Work Programme 2022-23**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (a) To enhance good governance in the area and ensure that the Council's policies take account of the needs and aspirations of local communities and do not discriminate unfairly between the different Areas.
- (b) To advise the Cabinet on budget priorities and expenditure within the Area.
- (c) To consider, develop and influence policy and strategy development of the Council, its arms-length organisations, and other relevant bodies, to ensure that they meet local requirements and facilitate efficient and transparent decision making.
- (d) To receive information, consider and comment on matters associated with service delivery including those undertaken in partnership agencies, affecting the local area to ensure that they meet local requirements, including matters relating to community safety, anti-social behaviour and environmental crime.
- (e) To consider and refer to Cabinet any issues from a local community perspective with emerging Neighbourhood Plans within their area, and consider local planning applications as per the planning delegation scheme
- (f) To consider and recommend adjustments to budget priorities in relation to Local Transport Plan issues within their area, and to make decisions in relation to devolved capital highway maintenance allocations.
- (g) To engage, through the appropriate networks, with all key stakeholders from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to facilitate the delivery of area priorities. This will include undertaking regular liaison with parish and town councils.
- (h) To inform, consult and engage local communities in accordance with Council policy and guidance, through the appropriate networks.
- (i) To, as appropriate, respond or refer with recommendations to local petitions and councillor calls for action.
- (j) To make certain appointments to outside bodies as agreed by Council.
- (k) To determine applications for grant aid from the Community Chest, either through Panels for individual Local Area Councils, or through the Panel of Local Area Council Chairs for countywide applications.

- (l) To refer and receive appropriate issues for consideration to or from other Council Committees, and as appropriate invite Portfolio Holders to attend a meeting if an item in their area of responsibility is to be discussed.

ISSUES TO BE SCHEDULED/CONSIDERED

Standard items updates: Planning Applications (monthly), Public question time (bimonthly, not at planning only meetings), petitions (bimonthly, not at planning only meetings), members' local improvement schemes (quarterly)

To be listed:

Northumberland County Council Castle Morpeth Local Area Council Work Programme 2022-23	
9 May 2022	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Rights of Way • Local Services Update • Members Local Improvement Schemes
13 June 2022	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Rights of Way
11 July 2022	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Rights of Way • Local Services Update • Appointments to Outside Bodies
8 August 2022	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning and Rights of Way
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**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL AREA COUNCIL - CASTLE MORPETH MONITORING REPORT
2021-22**

Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
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