



Northumberland County Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Enquiries to: Rebecca Greally

Email: rebecca.greally@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel direct:

Date: 02 January 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **ASHINGTON AND BLYTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE** to be held in **ROOM G01, BLYTH COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CENTRE, RIDLEY STREET, BLYTH, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE24 3AG** on **WEDNESDAY, 10 JANUARY 2024 at 4.00 PM.**

Yours faithfully

Dr. H. Paterson
Chief Executive

To Ashington and Blyth Local Area Committee members as follows:-

C Ball, D Carr (Vice-Chair), E Cartie, B Gallacher (Vice-Chair (Planning)), L Grimshaw (Chair), C Humphrey, J Lang, K Nisbet, K Parry, W Ploszaj, M Purvis, J Reid, M Richardson, E Simpson, A Wallace and A Watson



Dr. H. Paterson, Chief Executive
County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF
T: 0345 600 6400
www.northumberland.gov.uk



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 OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(Pages
1 - 8)

Minutes of the meetings of Ashington and Blyth Local Area Committee held on Wednesday 15th November 2023 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 where a matter arises at a meeting;

- a. Which **directly relates to** Disclosable Pecuniary Interest ('DPI') as set out in Appendix B, Table 1 of the Code of Conduct, to disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote and not to remain in room. Where members have a DPI or if the matter concerns an executive function and is being considered by a Cabinet Member with a DPI they must notify the Monitoring Officer and arrange for somebody else to deal with the matter.
- b. Which **directly relates to** the financial interest or well being of a Other Registrable Interest as set out in Appendix B, Table 2 of the Code of Conduct to disclose the interest and only speak on the matter if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain the room.
- c. Which **directly relates to** their financial interest or well-being (and is not DPI) or the financial well being of a relative or close associate, to declare the interest and members may only speak on the matter if members of the public are also allowed to speak. Otherwise, the member must not take part in discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room.
- d. Which **affects** the financial well-being of the member, a relative or close associate or a body included under the Other Registrable Interests column in Table 2, to disclose the interest and apply the test set out at paragraph 9 of Appendix B before deciding whether they may remain in the meeting.
- e. Where Members have or a Cabinet Member has an Other Registerable Interest or Non Registerable Interest in a matter being considered in exercise of their executive function, they must

notify the Monitoring Officer and arrange for somebody else to deal with it.

NB Any member needing clarification must contact monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk. Members are referred to the Code of Conduct which contains the matters above in full. 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 Committee 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 Committee.

5. PETITIONS

(Pages
9 - 14)

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:

Request for a Controlled Pedestrian Crossing on Newbiggin Road, Ashington

(c) Receive any updates on petitions for which a report was previously considered: any updates will be verbally reported at the meeting.

6. LOCAL POLICING UPDATE

Inspectors W Daniels and J Caisley will be in attendance to provide an update on policing issues in the Ashington and Blyth Area.

7. BUDGET 2024-25 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

This presentation will outline the Council's strategy to the 2024-25 Budget within the context of the Corporate Plan. The presentation will provide details of the approach to setting the budget for the next financial year and the broad impact this will have on the delivery of services.

8. FIX MY STREET

(Pages
15 - 34)

To receive a presentation on Fix My Street.

9. LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

(Pages
35 - 40)

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).

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13th March 2024.

IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST AT THIS MEETING, PLEASE:

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

Name:		Date of meeting:	
Meeting:			
Item to which your interest relates:			
Nature of Interest i.e. either disclosable pecuniary interest (as defined by Table 1 of Appendix B to the Code of Conduct, Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest (as defined by Appendix B to Code of Conduct) (please give details):			
Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?		Yes - <input type="checkbox"/>	No - <input type="checkbox"/>

Registering Interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)** which are as described in "The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012". You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 2 (Other Registerable Interests)**.

"Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner's interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

"Partner" means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

1. You must ensure that your register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.
2. A 'sensitive interest' is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected with the councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation.
3. Where you have a 'sensitive interest' you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public register.

Non participation in case of disclosable pecuniary interest

4. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in **Table 1**, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest.

Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

5. Where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests (as set out in **Table 2**), you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Disclosure of Non-Registerable Interests

7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in **Table 1**) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.
8. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –
- a. your own financial interest or well-being;
 - b. a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate; or
 - c. a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests as set out in **Table 2** you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied
9. Where a matter (referred to in paragraph 8 above) **affects** the financial interest or well- being:
- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
 - b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise, you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where you have an Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

This table sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in the [Relevant Authorities \(Disclosable Pecuniary Interests\) Regulations 2012](#).

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain. [Any unpaid directorship.]
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land and Property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licenses	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body

	<p>where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the councillor’s knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or ii. if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.
--	--

* ‘director’ includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* ‘securities’ means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2: Other Registrable Interests

You have a personal interest in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:

- a) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- b) any body
 - i. exercising functions of a public nature
 - ii. any body directed to charitable purposes or
 - iii. one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

Agenda Item 2

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

ASHINGTON & BLYTH LOCAL AREA COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **Ashington & Blyth Local Area Council** held on **Wednesday, 15 November 2023 at 4:30 pm** in **Ashington JR Rugby Club, Ellington Terrace, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 8TP**

PRESENT

Councillor L Grimshaw (Chair)

MEMBERS

C Ball
E Cartie
B Gallacher
J Lang
K Nisbit
K Parry

J Reid
M Richardson
L Simpson
A Wallace
A Watson

OFFICERS

N Dawson
L Dixon
R Little
S Mavin

Countryside and Green Spaces Manager
Democratic Services Assistant
Assistant Democratic Services Officer
Construction Manager

IN ATTENDANCE

J Chisholm
S Storey
P Tanney
M Touray
B Wren

Cycling 4 Everyone
Ashington Cricket Club
Ashington Rugby Club
Northumberland Church of Sanctuary
Seaton Hirst Veterans

About 10 members of the public were in attendance.

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSCENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Carr, Humphrey, Ploszaj and Purvis.

12 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Ashington & Blyth Local Area Council meeting held on Wednesday 13 September 2023, as circulated, be a true record and signed by the Chairman.

13 PETITIONS

(a) Receive any new petitions

Officers informed the committee of new petition that was submitted titled “Call for a pedestrian crossing on Newbiggin Road”, it had received 83 signatures and it was confirmed that a report was anticipated to come to the next Ashington & Blyth Local Area Committee in January 2024.

(b) Consider reports on petitions previously received

Petition seeking the continuation of staffing and activities in Hirst Park once grant funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund ceases.

N. Dawson introduced the report which gave detailed information and the key issues surrounding the petition.

The Hirst Park Revisal project had delivered significant improvements to Hirst Park, both in terms of the capital works but also in terms of the public’s use and enjoyment of the site. Project staff, in particular the Park Development Officer and Project Coordinator, had brought about a wide range of events and activities within the park that had enriched the lives of local people.

The Hirst Revival Project would not be able to continue after the funding ends in 2024. However, a number of activities and events in Hirst Park were planned to continue, managed by partners such as the Full Circle Food Project and NCC’s Northumberland Communities Together team. The park would continue to be able to host events organized by local community groups and organisations such as Heart of the Hirst.

NCC’s Countryside and Green Spaces Team were keen to maintain existing and develop new relationships with local people and organisations in order to ensure that the park continued to play a significant role in the enjoyment, health and wellbeing of local people. The park had achieved the “Green Flag” award. One of

the key elements for maintenance of the park's Green Flag status was the active involvement of the local community in the park and whilst the formation of a creation of a "Friends of" group was an aspiration of the Hirst Park Revival Project, that had not been met however the formation of a Friends group remained an on-going aspiration for NCC and NCC remained committed to ensuring the parks Green Flag status was maintained.

Members were disappointed that the funding would not continue and suggested that a report should go to the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee as well as Cabinet to be included in the discussions for the 2024-25 budget.

RESOLVED that members considered the report and noted:

- i. A great deal of good work had taken place to rejuvenate Hirst Parks thanks to investment in the Hirst Park Revival project by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Northumberland County Council, Ashington Town Council, Ashington Leisure Partnerships, and others.
- ii. The lifetime of the project had been extended and was planned to run until the end of March 2024.
- iii. Staff employed by the Hirst Park Revival Project were employed locally, remaining professionally linked to Hirst Park and the local community.
- iv. NCC and partner organisations would continue to support and promote events, activities, and volunteering within the park as part of the on-going management arrangements for the park, as this was a key part of the legacy of the project and supported achievements of the parks "Green Flag" status.

(c) Receive any updates on petitions for which a report was previously considered

There were no updates on previous petitions.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

14 BUDGET 2024-25 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

Members noted that this item was withdrawn from the agenda however voiced their disappointment that they would not be given longer to discuss issues before being voted upon by Council.

15 WINTER SERVICES PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE REPORT 2023-24

S. Mayben introduced the report which provided an overall update of the pre-season preparations ahead of the winter services season and invited any questions from members, the following information was then provided:

- During weather events, once the main and secondary routes were treated to a satisfactory level, then the neighborhood services team would look into requests from Fix My Street for further gritting areas.
- 4x4's were available in each area to grit tight streets.
- 5-7 days of continuous gritting were classed as weather events.
- Gully wagons would still be deployed during the winter season.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

16 COMMUNITY CHEST PRESENTATION

Ashington Cricket Club

S. Storey introduced himself to the committee as the Chair of the Ashington Cricket Club. Ashington Cricket club was a non-profit organisation which had run for over 100 years with the help from volunteers.

Ashington Cricket Club had used their grant money to improve facilities in the Club House, which abled the Cricket Club to increase how welcoming and professional they look and feel, which in turns increased the likelihood of the venue being hired out for functions, which in turn would bring further money into the club.

S. Storey thanked the members of the Ashington & Blyth Local Area Committee on behalf of Ashington Cricket Club for their support and the grant.

Cycling 4 Everyone

J. Chisholm introduced herself to the committee as a Founding Director of Cycling 4 Everyone which supported members of the public to cycle safely, the organisation had used their grant money to purchase a Cargo bike.

Following the purchase of the Cargo bike, Cycling 4 Everyone were able to secure a contract with Northumberland County Council to provide free adult cycle training around the County.

J. Chisholm thanked the members of the Ashington & Blyth Local Area Committee on behalf of Cycling 4 Everyone for their support and the grant.

Seaton Hirst Veterans' Institute

B. Wren introduced himself to the committee as Trustee of the Seaton Hirst Veterans Institute and gave a brief history of the club.

As Ashington was originally designed as a mining village, the clubhouse was a wooden hub on Newbiggin Road where elderly gentlemen met, socialised, and played snooker and billiards. In 1965 Seaton Hirst Veterans became a registered non-profit charity, and created a space where it was a safe place to meet others, participate in recreational activities or a chat over a hot drink.

In 1998 the clubhouse was moved to a built for purpose brick building, the facilities included a main snooker room, including two snooker tables, a games room including dominos, darts, chess, and a library.

The money granted to the Seaton Hirst Veterans' Institute was used to reupholster the two snooker tables so members could continue playing on a good quality table for their Snooker League.

B. Wren thanked the members of the Ashington & Blyth Local Area Committee on behalf of Seaton Hirst Veterans for their support and the grant.

Ashington Rugby Club

P. Tonney and R. Harmer introduced themselves to the committee as the President and Secretary of Ashington Rugby Club with the aid of a PowerPoint Presentation.

Ashington Rugby Club had a large user base, with a number of different varieties of rugby across all ages and ability ranges. Several local groups also utilised the facilities on the grounds, including Ashington Rugby Cricket Club, Green Lane Able Bodies and Disabled Archery Club, Ashington Town Junior Football Club, Ashington Hirst Running Club, The Northumberland Veterans Motorcycle Club (Reivers Section) and The Kingfishers. In addition to those groups, a local Karate Club used the grounds for training during the summer and a local falconer used the grounds to train her hawks also.

Ashington Rugby Club used their Community Chest grant to improve their facilities in the club house, with the aim of delivering level access additional toilets, enhance the social space to make it more attractive and accessible to outside users, making the club more financially stable. With the grant the club was able to deliver accessible toilets, a new storeroom, the transfer of the laundry into a new laundry room created in the changing rooms.

P. Tonney and R. Harmer thanked the members of the Ashington & Blyth Local Area Committee on behalf of Ashington Rugby Club for their support and the grant and invited members to tour the facilities after the meeting ended.

Northumberland County of Sanctuary

M. Touray introduced himself to the committee as a member from the Northumberland County of Sanctuary.

Northumberland County of Sanctuary was founded in 2016 and registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2019. The objectives of NcoS were:

1. The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit among people who were refugees and asylum seekers, (including convention refugees, refugee communities, people with leave to remain, asylum seekers and ex-detainees), socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position by promoting and/or co-ordination services and facilities to assist them to adapt within a new community.
2. The relief of financial hardship among asylum seekers and refugees living or working in Northumberland by acting as an umbrella and resource for local refugee support services.
3. The advancement of education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum and human rights.
4. The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding and good relations between the general public and people seeking sanctuary.

The organisation used their Community Chest grant by hosting an International Day Celebration and inviting members of the public to join in the celebrations with various activities throughout the day including Hunter Theatre arts dance display, Northumbrian Pipers, Living History teaching children traditional games as well as a variety of International Cuisine.

M. Touray thanked the members of the Ashington & Blyth Local Area Committee on behalf of the Northumberland County of Sanctuary for their support and the grant.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

17 LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Councillors were encouraged to raise any items they would like brought to committee with agreement of the Chair.

Councillor Watson inquired whether information regarding the Blyth beach development could come to a future Local Area Council, Councillor Grimshaw agreed and noted that a briefing note could be sent out to members and Blyth Town Council.

Chair's Initials.....

Ashington and Blyth Local Area Council, 15 November 2023

Councillor Wallace also inquired whether information of changes to elections could be circulated to members regarding polling cards.

Councillor Ball noted that she feels there had been a slippage in the Ashington schemes and that money had been removed from the 2022-23 budget and moved into other schemes would like an officer to attend to explain what is happening with the remaining “levelling up” money.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

10 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Ashington and Blyth Local Area Committee would be held on Wednesday, 10 January 2024.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

Chair _____

Date _____

This page is intentionally left blank



Northumberland County Council

ASHINGTON AND BLYTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE
DATE: 10TH JANUARY 2024

PETITION – REQUEST FOR A CONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON NEWBIGGIN ROAD, ASHINGTON

Report of: Service Director – Environment and Transport, Paul Jones

Cabinet Member: John Riddle, Improving our Roads and Highways

Purpose of report

To respond to the e-petition which closed for signatures on 14th October 2023 regarding a request for the installation of a controlled pedestrian crossing on the B1334 Newbiggin Road in Ashington between its junction with Freeman Way and the A189 Spine Road.

Recommendations

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

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the following key themes in the Corporate Plan for 2023-26:

‘Thriving Places and Culture – Neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained’

Key Issues

1. A petition has been received requesting a controlled pedestrian crossing on the B1334 Newbiggin Road between its junction with Freeman Way and the A189 Spine Road in Ashington.
2. The petition has been signed by 83 signatories.
3. As part of the Essendene Rise residential development, footways on the southern side of the B1334 were introduced connecting the development to the existing footway infrastructure, along with a pedestrian refuge to cross the B1334.
4. In planning terms due to the amount of limited anticipated pedestrian movements across the B1334 from the development, the pedestrian refuge was all that could be reasonably requested as a crossing facility of the B1334. The Co-op and Cooplands

Bakery shops are on the same side of the road as the Essendene Rise residential development.

5. A further pedestrian / vehicle PV2 survey is proposed to be undertaken to assess how the results have changed since the previous survey undertaken in 2021 and consideration is to be given to any signage and road marking improvements which may provide additional warning to motorists that there may be pedestrians crossing in this area.

Background

The Petition

The County Council has received an 83-name petition stating that :-

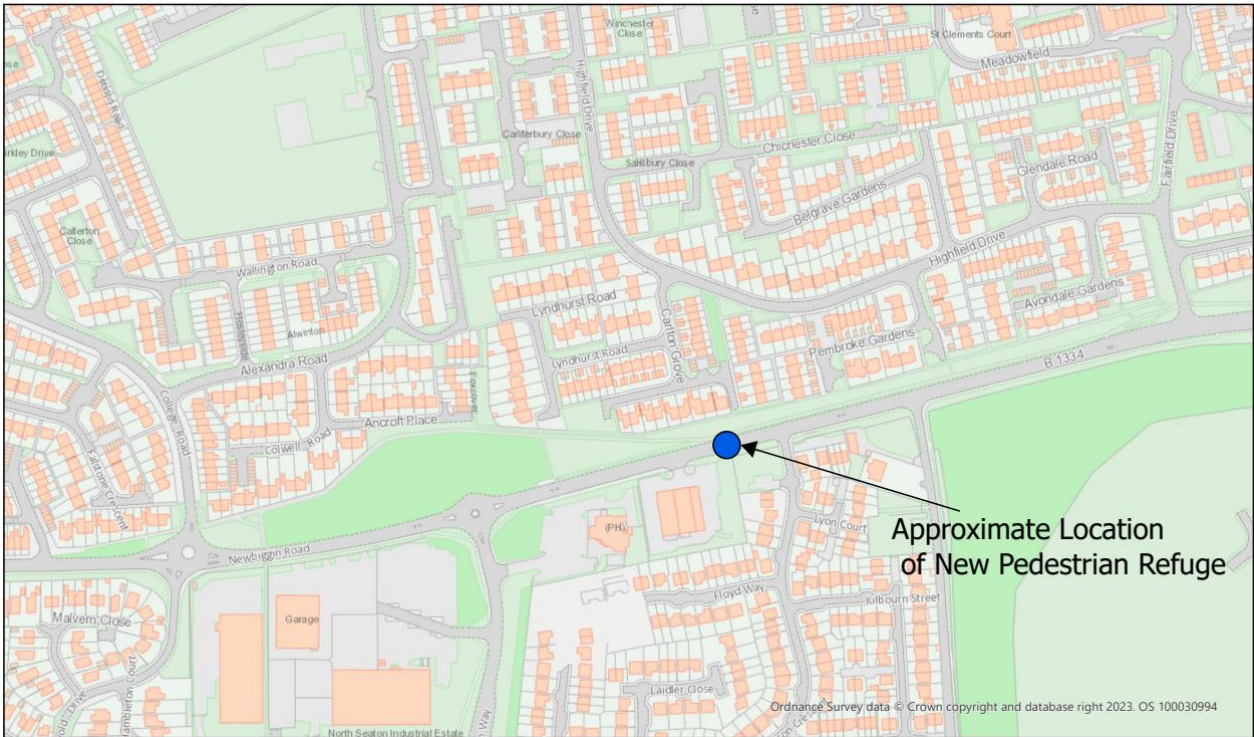
“Residents of the Essendene Rise Estate and in homes on or around the B1334 Newbiggin Road from its junction with Freeman Way (the B & M roundabout) to the junction of the A189 Spine Road are calling for the installation of a controlled pedestrian crossing on Newbiggin Road.

The last council survey in April 2021 identified insufficient traffic and pedestrian usage to warrant a controlled crossing. However, this was before the Co-op and Cooplands Bakery opened and the size of the Essendene Rise Estate has also doubled since then. The growing number of people crossing this busy road is increasing the potential for a serious accident to occur. It is posing a significant problem for older and disabled people who can't drive as it is not possible to access public transport without crossing this road. Furthermore, the increasing number of families now living in the area means that children are also at risk when accessing the local shops and attending school”.

Comments

The B1334 is a short, largely urban B class road on the Northumberland coast, commencing at its junction with the A196 at the roundabout just to the east of North Seaton Level Crossing, heading east and north-east to Newbiggin-by-the-Sea via the A189 at North Seaton roundabout.

As part of the Essendene Rise residential development, footways on the southern side of the B1334 were introduced connecting the development to the existing footway infrastructure, along with a pedestrian refuge.



Plan showing approximate location of new pedestrian refuge



Vaisala image of new pedestrian refuge

6. In planning terms due to the amount of limited anticipated pedestrian movements across the B1334 from the development, the pedestrian refuge was all that could be reasonably requested as a crossing facility of the B1334. The Co-op and Cooplands Bakery shops are on the same side of the road as the Essendene Rise residential development.

In order for a pedestrian crossing to be considered, a pedestrian/vehicle (PV2) survey is carried out, this is required to determine whether the necessary criteria is met. The minimum requirement is 0.2, however, it should be noted that this is a local requirement specific to Northumberland which is more generous than the nationally recommended 0.5.

A survey was previously undertaken in April 2021, and the result was 0.11, which is well short of the Council's criteria.

In light of the petition being received, a further survey will be arranged to assess whether this figure has changed bearing in mind that the previous survey may also have been impacted by COVID.

It should be noted that there are several additional crossing points provided on this section of Newbiggin Road, in the form of uncontrolled crossing points as well as a controlled pedestrian crossing to the east of the Newbiggin Road/College Road roundabout junction.



Vaisala image of existing pedestrian crossing near Newbiggin Road / College Road junction

Accident Data

According to accident casualty data from Northumbria Police, since the pedestrian refuge was introduced, or indeed the last five years, there have been no personal injury accidents to any pedestrians across the area of concern. However, it should be noted that there have been four "slight" personal injury collisions at the Fairfield Drive traffic light junction. Three of these incidents were vehicles colliding with the rear of another vehicle waiting at the traffic lights, while the other incident was a result of a driver failing to stop at the traffic lights. One further "slight" personal injury occurred at the Freeman Way junction, when a motorcyclist failed to look properly, resulting in a collision with the side of a car which was turning right at the roundabout.

Proposed Actions

- A) Undertake a further PV2 survey to assess how the results have changed since the previous survey undertaken in 2021.
- B) Consider any signage and road marking improvements which may provide additional warning to motorists that there may be pedestrians crossing in this area if deemed 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	n/a
Customer Consideration	Petition identifies concerns when crossing Newbiggin Road.

Carbon reduction	n/a
Health and Wellbeing	Petition raises issues regarding road safety.
Wards	College

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	Simon Neilson
Chief Executive	N/A
Portfolio Holder(s)	John Riddle

Author and Contact Details

Neil Snowdon – Principal Programme Officer (Highways Improvement Team)



Northumberland
County Council

Fix My Street Update Ashington & Blyth Local Area Committee

Date 10/01/2024

www.northumberland.gov.uk

Previous Systems- Lagan/Emails/Mayrise

- Customer services added manually onto Lagan
- Minimal system integration into back office systems
- Reports locations an issue
- Repeat reports on issues countywide
- No feedback to customers
- Fix My Street being used by residents- No closed loop or feedback on over 9,000 reports
- Reporting and data limited using Lagan
- Archaic system

Fix My Street – Envisaged Benefits

- Web based reporting
- App based for mobile technology
- Clearer locations- Mapped based reporting
- Key Categories.
- Asset based reporting (streetlights, gullies, Car Parks)
- Photographic evidence.
- Back Office System Integration.(Alloy Highways)
- Consistency & standardisation of approach.
- FOI/EIR information.
- Data driven reports by category, area, ward – support service improvement.

Page 17



Implementation/Development

- Contracts awarded in Jan 2023
- Business readiness delivered to key officers and departments across the authority
- Project started February 2023
- System Testing in mid April 2023
- Live Beta site in mid May 2023
- Staff user training across customer services and local services April/May.
- Replaced Lagan reporting for only Local Services (Not Waste activities)

Fix My Street- User Benefits

- Single account setup
- Multiple categories to pinpoint issue
- Reports on the asset (streetlights)
- Account updates on reports
- Transparent view of reports made
- Feedback surveys issued.

Page 19



Fix My Street Access- (fix.northumberland.gov.uk)

NCC Website

Page 20

Northumberland County Council

Listen and translate My Account Search here e.g. council tax

Home Pay Apply Report Councillors All Services

Alerts General Alert: Country Parks may open late due to Storm Agnes on morning of 28th Sept View all

Cost of Living Support Hub

- Household support fund
- Household costs and bills
- Housing and council tenants
- Support for families
- Gas, electricity and oil bills
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Skills, jobs and work
- How to volunteer
- Help with transport costs
- Support for businesses

Top Tasks Popular tasks right now View all tasks

- Report Shrub Maintenance Problem
- Report a Tree Problem
- Register To Vote
- Report a pothole
- Find a planning application
- Report Street Light Fault

Dedicated Webpage- fix.northumberland.gov.uk

Northumberland County Council

Report a problem Your account Shortlist All reports Local alerts Help Admin

Report, view, or discuss local problems
(like graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, or street lighting)

Enter a Northumberland postcode, or street name and area:
e.g. 'NE61 1BE' or 'Newgate Street, Morpeth'

Go

Use my current location

Your report will now be logged for the next working day.
Please contact 0345 600 6400 in an emergency
Beta Site - This is a new service. **Your feedback will help us improve it.**

How to report a problem

- 1 Enter a Northumberland postcode, or street name and area
- 2 Locate the problem on a map of the area
- 3 Enter details of the problem
- 4 Confirm the report and Northumberland County Council will investigate

739 reports in past week

1,339 fixed in past month

35,782 updates on reports

Recently reported problems

- Dangerous missing and protruding metal safety barrier parts.
16:29 today, last updated 16:56 today
- Gate locked on byway
15:59 today, last updated 16:02 today
- Fridge dumped at Alnwick rugby club
15:26 today, last updated 15:28 today
- Mattress dumped on Laburnum terrace
14:48 today, last updated 14:51 today
- Verge grass cutting 'chewed-up' plastic cover to a utility (unclear which) outside 199 Middle Drive
14:37 today, last updated 14:38 today

Fix My Street Website

FixMyStreet - Reporting a problem :: FixMyStreet

Northumberland County Council

Your account Shortlist All reports Local alerts Help Admin

Report your problem

Click the map or drag the pin to adjust the location

Or search for a different location

Your report will now be logged for the next working day. Please contact 0345 600 6400 in an emergency

Category


- Abandoned Vehicle
- Bridges/Structure
- Bus Stop
- Car Park
- Crash Barriers - Damaged/Unsafe
- Dead Animal
- Dog Fouling
- Drains
- EV Chargers
- Fly-tipping
- Footway/Footpath
- Graffiti Issue
- Grass Cutting
- Kerbs
- Litter
- Parks Maintenance
- Pedestrian Barriers - Damaged / Missing
- Rights of Way
- Road
- Road Markings - Worn/Faded

Alnwick

Contains National Highways and Ordnance © Crown copyright and database right

User Account Page- All Updates on reports made

Page 22



Report a problem Your account Shortlist All reports Local alerts Help Admin

Your account

- Name: kris Westerby
- Email: kris.westerby@northumberland.gov.uk
- Phone: - [Add](#) [Change](#)

Receive update notifications by:

Email None

Receive local alert notifications by:

Email None

[Update](#)





[Change password](#) [Security](#) [Sign out](#)

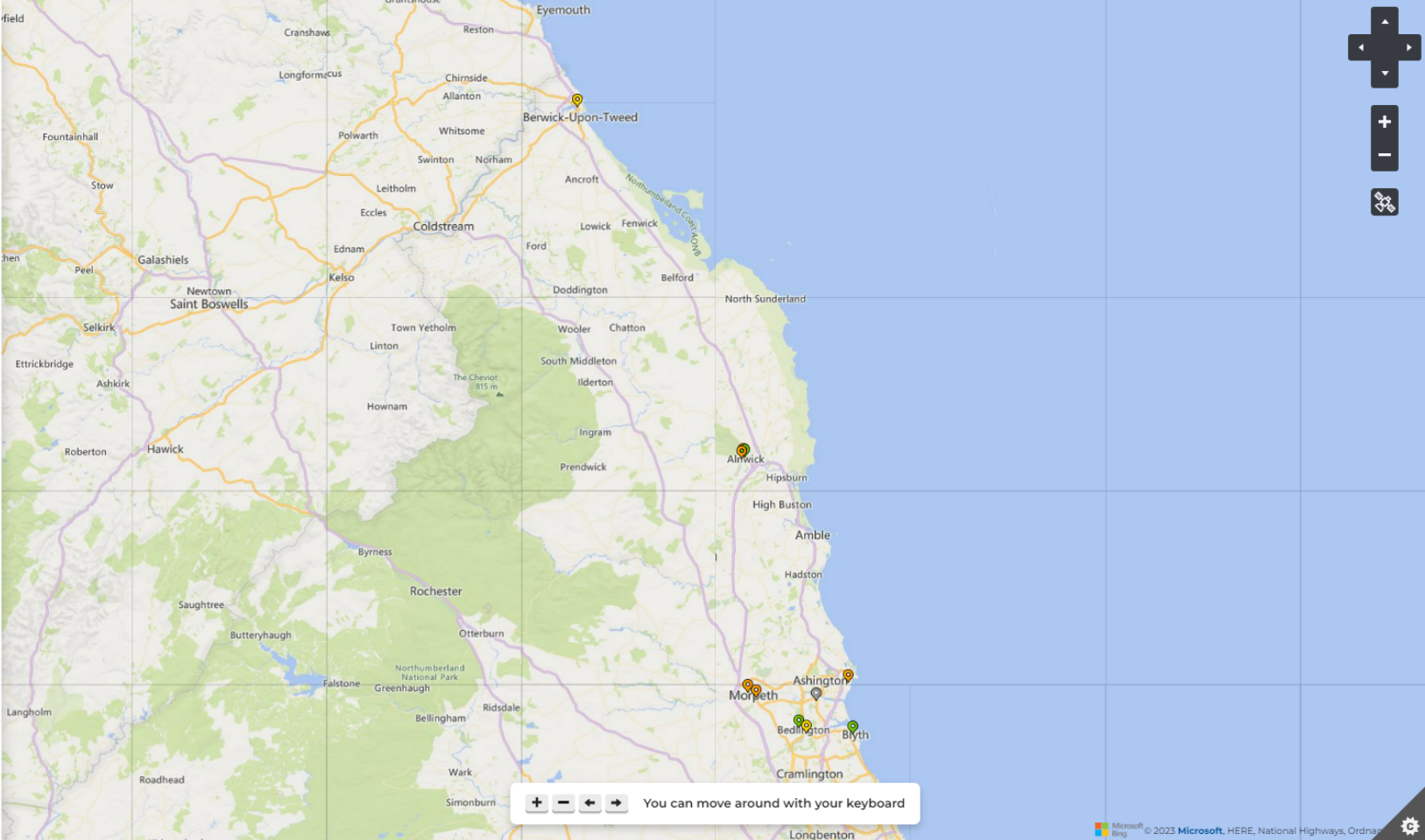
Your reports

Show reports about

Sort by

1 to 11 of 11

-  **A Leaf fall, berries or sap problem has been found**
12:26, 20 Sep 2023, last updated 11:29 today
Assigned to: **Leon Savage**
-  **A Leaf fall, berries or sap problem has been found**
12:23, 20 Sep 2023, last updated 14:42, 20 Sep 2023
Assigned to: **Leon Savage**
-  **A Fallen Tree Branch problem has been found**
17:49, 25 May 2023, last updated 09:18, 3 Jul 2023
-  **A Fly-tipping problem has been**

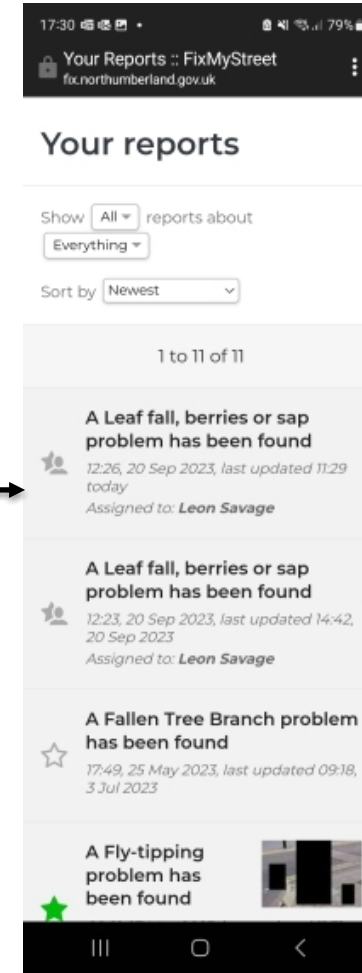
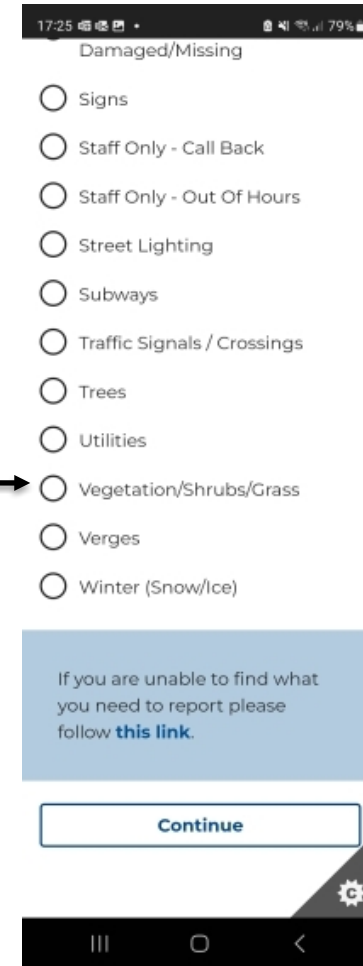


Microsoft © 2023 Microsoft, HERE, National Highways, Ordnance Survey

Fix My Street Mobile Application




Page 23



FMS- Local Alerts

Page 24

[Report a problem](#) [Your account](#) [Shortlist](#) [All reports](#) [Local alerts](#) [Help](#) [Admin](#)

Local RSS feeds and email alerts

FixMyStreet has a variety of RSS feeds and email alerts for local problems, including alerts for all problems within a particular ward, or all problems within a certain distance of a particular location.


To find out what local alerts we have for you, please enter your Northumberland postcode or street name and area:


Postcode or street name and area

e.g. 'NE61 1BE' or 'Newgate Street, Morpeth'

[Use my current location](#)

Some photos of recent reports






Menu


- [Contact Us](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Staff Resources](#)
- [Councillor Resources](#)

Partner websites

- [Visit Northumberland](#)
- [Active Northumberland](#)
- [Advance Northumberland](#)
- [Northumberland Line](#)

Social Media





Staff View on FMS Report

Page 25

- Web and Mobile
- Update reports
- Moderate
- State changes-
- Open Investigating
- For Triage
- Action scheduled
- In progress
- Fixed
- Not responsible
- No further action
- Duplicate
- Closed
- Internal referral

Northumberland County Council

Report ID: 4536941 (admin) Private

Email: kris.westerby@northumberland.gov.uk

Easting/Northing: 399603, 653186

Nearest calculated address: 24 Castlegate, TD15 1JT, England, United Kingdom

[Navigate to this problem](#)

[Set to my current location](#)

Category: Potholes (Road)

State: Investigating

Assign to: kris Westerby

Priority: -

Extra details: \olhpoihoi

Save with a public update

Photos (optional)

Drag photos here or [browse photos](#)

Public update:

Report Details:

A Potholes (Road) problem has been found

Reported via desktop in the Potholes (Road) category anonymously at 12:31, Wednesday 10 May 2023

Sent to Northumberland County Council less than a minute later. FixMyStreet ref: 4536941.

Moderated by Northumberland County Council at 12:32, Wednesday 10 May 2023

A Potholes (Road) problem has been found by Northumberland County Council

UPDATES

[Moderate this update](#)

Thank You for your report. We will review this report at our earliest opportunity.

Posted by **Northumberland County Council** (Northumberland County Council) at 12:31, Wednesday 10 May 2023

Photos added:

Photos deleted:

[Report abuse](#) [Get updates](#) [Problems nearby](#)

Report another problem here Your account Shortlist All reports Local alerts Help Admin

Microsoft © 2023 Microsoft. HERE, National Highways, Ordnance Survey

Staff View- Shortlist

Page 26





- Update reports
- Manage reports
- Filter by duration
- Filter by category
- Reassign to other
- Audit Trail





Your shortlist





Show reports about





Sort by





1 to 6 of 6





   **A Potholes (Road) problem has been found** 
12:31, 10 May 2023, last updated 15:26, 6 Sep 2023
Assigned to: *kris Westerby*

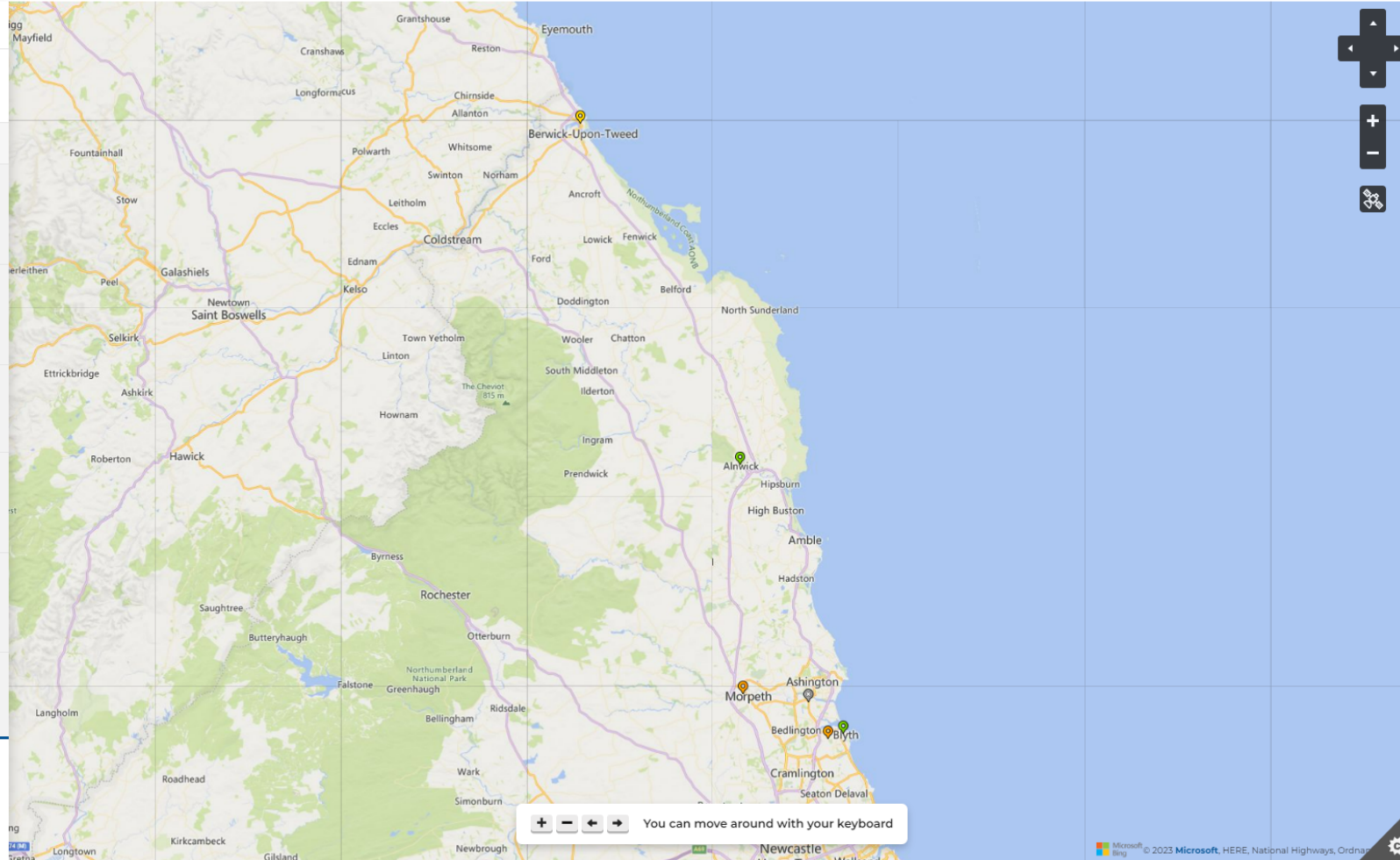
   **A Slabs - Missing problem has been found** 
09:15, 12 May 2023, last updated 09:16, 12 May 2023
Assigned to: *kris Westerby*

   **A Lamp/Bulb Failure (Street Lighting) problem has been found** 
13:38, 12 May 2023, last updated 14:34, 12 May 2023
Assigned to: *kris Westerby*

   **A Damaged Drains problem has been found** 
12:27, 15 May 2023, last updated 13:20, 31 May 2023
Assigned to: *kris Westerby*

   **A Fly-tipping problem has been found** 
09:21, 17 May 2023, last updated 11:31, 12 Jun 2023
Assigned to: *kris Westerby*

   **Worn road** 
14:16, 17 May 2023, last updated 08:01, 31 May 2023
Assigned to: *kris Westerby*



Fix My Street – Reports Received

- From May-Sept 14,329 reports on Fix My Street
 - 7,557 added to FMS by Customer Services
 - 6,772 added to FMS by users
 - 5,618 of these using mobile devices
- Lagan reports for the same period in 2021-22 total 5,887
- FMS seen an increase of **143%** over the same period.
- Average total of lagan reports in years 2021 and 2022 was 18,559.
- FMS generated **77%** of reports based on previous years within 3 months.

Trends – Response rates

- FMS reports received May-Sept 2023-14,329
- 12,747 reports responded to within May-Sept.
- 88% response rate

Page 28

Open	4414
Action scheduled	729
Investigating	518
In progress	182
For Triage	4
Fixed - User	766
Fixed	3
Fixed - Council	2192
No further action	743
Duplicate	1116
Not responsible	560
Closed	2995
Internal referral	107
Total	14329

Statistics-Reports By Month

- Monthly report Total

	2023	Total
May	2583	2583
June	3736	3736
July	4184	4184
August	3826	3826
Total	14329	14329

Detailed Analysis of Reports

- Breakdown by category

	Open	Closed	Fixed	Total
Abandoned Vehicle	30	86	3	119
Abandoned Vehicle (Parks Maintenance)	0	0	0	0
Abandoned Vehicle (any)	0	0	0	0
Abandoned vehicles	0	0	0	0
Animal	0	0	0	0
Barrier Problem	0	0	0	0
Bird fouling or insects	1	1	0	2
Blocked - Flooding of Private Property	19	4	6	29
Blocked - Flooding of Road/Path	97	26	47	170
Blocked Ditch	20	7	10	37
Blocked Ditch Causing Flooding	11	2	5	18
Brambles	0	0	0	0
Branch Broken/Hanging in tree	9	1	0	10
Bridge out of repair	1	0	0	1
Broken / Missing	5	6	2	13
Building Damage	1	0	0	1
Bus Route Obstruction	0	0	0	0
Bus stops	0	0	0	0
Car parking	0	0	0	0
Car parks	0	0	0	0
Crash Barriers - Damaged/Unsafe	4	1	0	5
Damage to Structure	4	6	0	10
Damaged	0	0	0	0
Damaged / Missing / Facing Wrong Way	15	11	5	31
Damaged / Missing / Facing Wrong Way (Signs)	14	13	8	35
Damaged / Missing / Facing Wrong Way (Street Lighting)	0	2	6	8
Damaged Barrier	0	0	0	0
Damaged Control Box	1	0	0	1
Damaged Drains	8	5	4	17
Damaged General	0	0	0	0

FMS Details By Ward



[Report a problem](#) [Your account](#) [Shortlist](#) [All reports](#) [Local alerts](#)

Northumberland County Council

Show **All** reports about **Everything**

From **05/05/2023** To **09/2023**

In wards **Bamburgh**

Heatmap

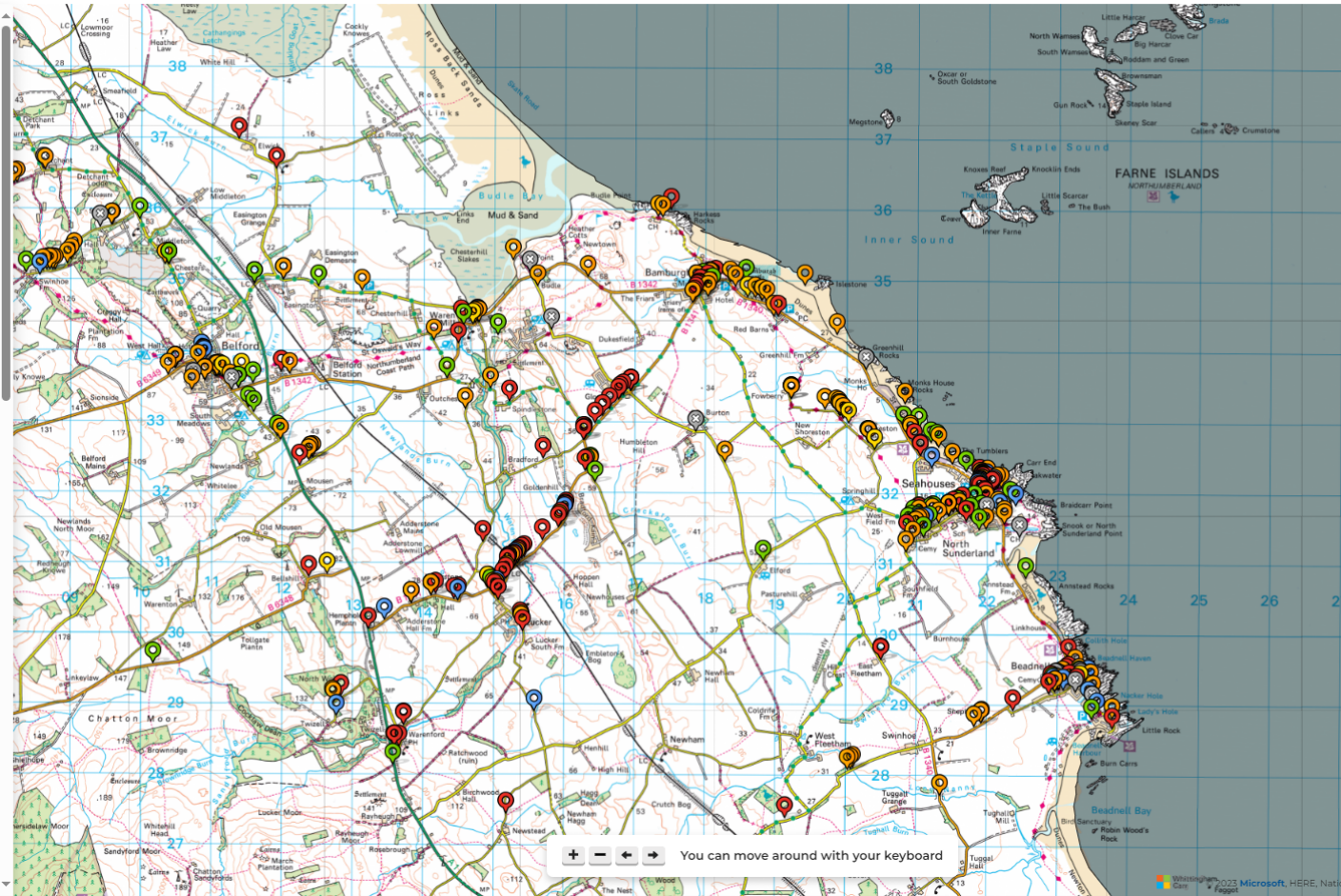
Pin map

Five newest reports

- Deep pothole**
07:35 today, last updated 10:20 today
- Under road subsidence**
07:33 today, last updated 07:34 today
- A Potholes problem has been found**
Closed 14:40, Monday, last updated 06:45, Tuesday
- Fertiliser spraying**
Closed 18:14, Sunday, last updated 09:49, Monday
- Signpost down- also facing wrong direction.**
18:08, Sunday, last updated 09:53, Monday
Assigned to: **Phil Bradley**

Five most recent commented reports
Not from yourself/backend

- A Blocked - Flooding of Road/Path problem has been found**
10:41, 2 Aug 2023, last updated 14:40 today
- Streetlight off**
Closed 12:43, 15 Aug 2023, last updated 12:59 today
- Caravan has been pitched on Bude Bay**

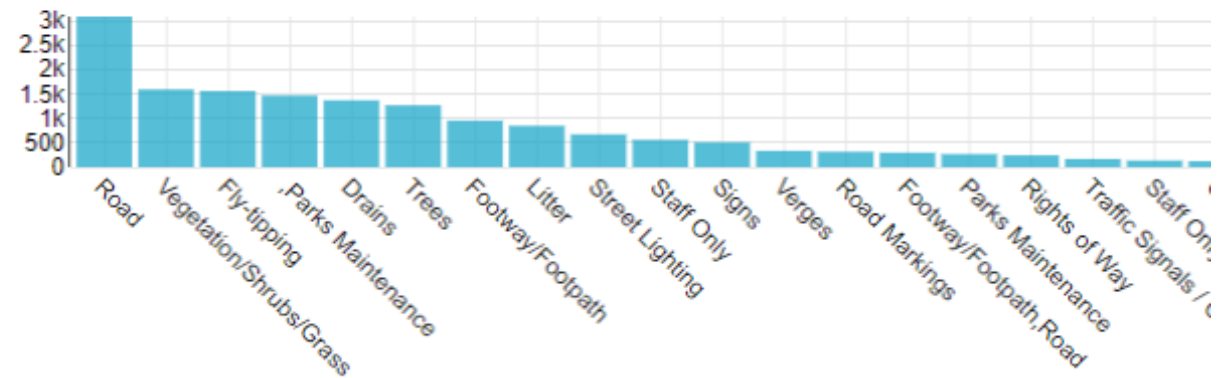


FMS- Top 5 Reporting Categories

- Roads- Potholes
- Fly Tipping
- Hedges/Overgrown Vegetation
- Blocked Gullies
- Grass Cutting

Page 32

FMS Popular posts



Next Steps

- Close out implementation stage – handover corporate ownership to Customer Services
- Further on-going refinements/improvements to FMS- Winter Services, Trees
- Process mapping of high volume areas
- Improve consistency/quality of feedback to users – including on-going staff training
- Reporting direct to Town and Parish councils
- Increase front-end automation of responses – GIS mapping layers of NCC assets
- Continuous improvement cycle – implementation was the start of the journey!

Page 33



Questions????



FIX MY STREET

Report it:

- Litter
- Potholes
- Fly tipping
- Dog fouling

Sort it.



 Northumberland
County Council

nland.cc/fix >>>

**Northumberland County Council
Ashington and Blyth Area Committee
Work Programme 2023-24**

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 Committee, or through the Panel of Local Area Committee 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.
- (m) To exercise the following functions within their area:-
 - (i) the Council's functions in relation to the survey, definition, maintenance, diversion, stopping up and creation of public rights of way.
 - (ii) the Council's functions as the Commons Registration Authority for common land and town/village greens in Northumberland.
 - (iii) the Council's functions in relation to the preparation and maintenance of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
 - (iv) the Council's functions in relation to the Northumberland National Park and County Joint Local Access Forum (Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007.

(v) the Council’s role in encouraging wider access for all to the County’s network of public rights of way and other recreational routes.

ISSUES TO BE SCHEDULED/CONSIDERED

Standard items updates: Public question time , petitions, members’ local improvement schemes (quarterly).

To be listed:
Northumberland Communities Together
Tourism
Capital Programme Slippage

Northumberland County Council
 Ashington and Blyth Local Area Committee
 Work Programme 2023-24

Page 37

15 November 2023	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Preparedness Update • Community Chest (Wansbeck)
10 January 2024	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northumbria Police Update • Fix my Street Report • Budget
13 March 2024	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Chest (Newbiggin)

15 May 2024

- Community Chest (Blyth)
- Healthwatch

Northumberland County Council
Ashington and Blyth Local Area Committee
Monitoring Report 2023-2024

Page 38

Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Updates
1.	15.11.2023	Petition seeking the continuation of staffing and activities in Hirst Park once grant funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund ceases.	RESOLVED that members considered the report and noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. A great deal of good work had taken place to rejuvenate Hirst Parks thanks to investment in the Hirst Park Revival project by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Northumberland County Council, Ashington Town Council, Ashington Leisure Partnerships, and others.ii. The lifetime of the project had been extended and was planned to run until the end of March 2024.iii. Staff employed by the Hirst Park Revival Project were employed locally, remaining professionally linked to Hirst Park and the local community.iv. NCC and partner organisations would continue to support and promote events, activities, and	

			volunteering within the park as part of the on-going management arrangements for the park, as this was a key part of the legacy of the project and supported achievements of the parks "Green Flag" status.	
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

This page is intentionally left blank