

February 2019

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## Notice board

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at St James's Centre in Pottergate on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March. It's your opportunity to celebrate our achievements in 2018 and look forward to another busy year. We have invited Bill Batey to speak on his experience as Town Clerk.

When we had to postpone last year's talk by Fiona White on the Tunnels of Alnwick it came as a disappointment to many. So we anticipate healthy interest on the revised date - 22<sup>nd</sup> May in St James's Centre, at 7:30.

On 10<sup>th</sup> July it's our summer outing - for a talk on the story of the Bowl Hole Ossuary at Bamburgh, with Jessica Turner.

November: our regular Any Questions topical debate - further details to be announced.

A new year has started - so remember to renew your subscription, and check any standing orders.



## Any Questions?

*"Any Questions?" is a regular feature on our calendar, but on 7th November we varied the format, with discussions themed around the question "How do we ensure the good life continues in Alnwick?".*

Chaired by David Lovie (centre), the panel (left to right) consisted of Callum Burns, Robbie Moore, Tim Kirton and Jon Thew. Callum has brought his experience of teaching abroad, and elsewhere in the UK back to Alnwick for the benefit of pupils at the High school. Robbie is one of Alnwick's two County Councillors. He never left the North-East after coming to study in Newcastle. Tim discovered the area on holiday before becoming Projects and Funding Officer for Alnwick Town Council. Jon is a native of the North-East, with a background in Telecommunications, who now leads on Patient Participation for Alnwick Medical Group.

As usual discussion ranged widely. How would you persuade a young couple from London that Alnwick is the place to bring up a family? How will the merger of medical practices help to ensure the good life continues for patients? What strategy can ensure that a plethora of voluntary and public bodies work together for the town centre? How will development in educational facilities ensure the good life continues for future generations? How will increased out-of-town development affect the good life in Alnwick?

We touched on some familiar themes. We need to think ahead and plan for the future. Everyone recognises the pressures on the infrastructure for health, education, employment, and the centre. However, we now have concrete evidence that the Neighbourhood Plan carries real weight.

Consolidation of medical practices shows that change is not always easy to deal with - but can result in a more consistent and more scaleable service. Similarly, the new education facilities demonstrate a willingness to invest for the future, and that commitment has given confidence to the next generation.

In all these areas, co-ordinating the efforts of different groups is challenging, but vital. Alnwick town centre - for example - has been hit by developments on the high street. It is hardly alone in that, and it is surviving better than many. The Town Team plays an important role as a forum where different groups coordinate efforts and pool resources. The town as a result is well-placed to capitalise on recent policy developments at national level.



One theme that came out strongly in these discussions was the need to be more inclusive.

Some of the changes that are underway mean that historic links between different parts of the community are under strain. But at the same time new opportunities are emerging to bring generations together, and involve groups that are sometimes hard to reach. Not everyone has access to the "good life" now. For a strong community it is important to attract a diverse mix of housing, retail, and leisure; and to better support business innovation.

# Alnwick Destination Management Plan - ten years on

The Destination Plan for Alnwick was published in 2008 as an action plan for organisations involved in delivering the visitor experience. It covered the period to 2018, and its purpose was to:

- help develop the tourism potential of Alnwick and strengthen its identity for visitors
- encourage the cross fertilisation of ideas and identify the top priorities for action
- provide a framework and rationale for investment and development planning in the tourism sector within the town, including harnessing private sector potential
- help to clarify how partners and agencies can work together to map out a way forward for the next few years.

The main focus for development and marketing was to be visitors described as "Traditionals" and "Cosmopolitans".

The vision statement promised:

- Alnwick will be one of the UK's top heritage towns, using the high profiles of Alnwick Castle and The Alnwick Garden, supported by iconic attractions such as Barter Books and House of Hardy to sustain a thriving visitor economy.
- The visitor experience will be enhanced through the de-

velopment of a new, design-led town centre hotel, improved food, drink and evening time offer and greater accessibility through enhanced heritage interpretation, town trail and better signage.

- The revitalised Northumberland Hall and Market Place will provide a focus for the town, complementing the much improved independent retail offer – together offering a stimulus for those visiting the Castle and Garden to extend their trip into Alnwick centre.
- A full cultural programme of festivals, markets and shows will provide an additional draw to the town.
- Visitors seeking an outdoor experience will take advantage of the unique countryside and coastline through newly developed cycling and walking routes to the coast and westwards towards the Cheviots.

**There were several aspects to the plan**

How would you judge the success of each element?

"Thumbs up"?

"Thumbs down"?

or "Difficult to say"?



## For "Traditionals"

Geared towards heritage and investigation, live life at a relaxed pace and enjoy intellectual challenges, arts and culture. Interested in the Alnwick Garden, Alnwick Castle and the museums. Value good service and are unlikely to justify spending on expensive alternatives.

### 'Alnwick – The Garden Town'

- Alnwick would be known internationally
- The Garden continued into a landscaped town (the garden town)
- Taking everything good from the garden and extending it into town and throughout the town with community involvement
- Market Place and Northumberland Hall upgraded to be more vibrant whilst remaining pedestrian friendly, gourmet pubs and information on the internet
- A traffic free town
- A range of great shops, tea shops, gastro pubs, cultural activities and community involvement
- Issue: Alnwick needs a 'Champion Entrepreneur' to lead and get things going
- Issue: Need to overcome reluctance to change.

## Alnwick Settlement Boundary

Alongside other policies, a settlement boundary can help to control the location of new development, and give the community some certainty regarding future development. They help to protect the countryside from encroachment, maintain the character and form of settlements, and can help to protect the settings of historic and ecological assets.

The Northumberland plan will define a settlement boundary unless the local community chooses to define the boundary themselves; or not to define a boundary.

The Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood plan did not include a settlement boundary for Alnwick. However, the Local plan does now include one.

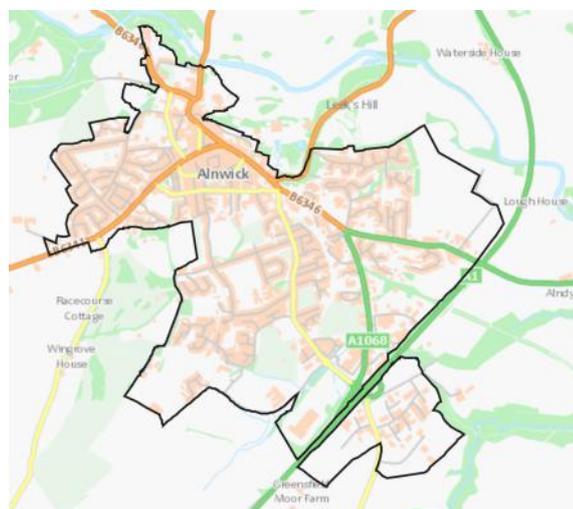
For us, the importance is that this boundary will help direct housing development to suitable locations, and protect the countryside from incursion. However, the devil is always in the detail. So we welcome comments from members on any aspect of the boundary that concerns them.

## For "Cosmopolitans"

Cosmopolitans like challenges both physical and intellectual and have an appreciation of arts and culture. They are stylish people who value individuality and hope to escape and do their own thing during a short break. They are a high-spending market and find it easy to justify buying expensive alternatives. To attract them, a location must have a link to the 'great outdoors' as well offering some of the things they like such as cooking, shopping, art's & culture.

### 'A vibrant, Exciting, Lively Destination'

- Good quality Bars and restaurants
- A top quality hotel
- Annual Jazz festival
- More outdoor activities e.g. 4x4 driving, surfing, cookery schools, art galleries / schools
- Less traffic in the town centre.



You can view a more detailed version at the Local Plan Consultation pages on the Northumberland web site, or here:

<http://northumberland-consult.limehouse.co.uk/file/5262437>

# Planning reform - supporting the high street

*The government is committed to simplifying and speeding up the planning system, to support the high street, make effective use of land and deliver more homes. In October 2018 they launched a consultation on proposals to help high streets to adapt and diversify, and speed up delivery of new homes.*

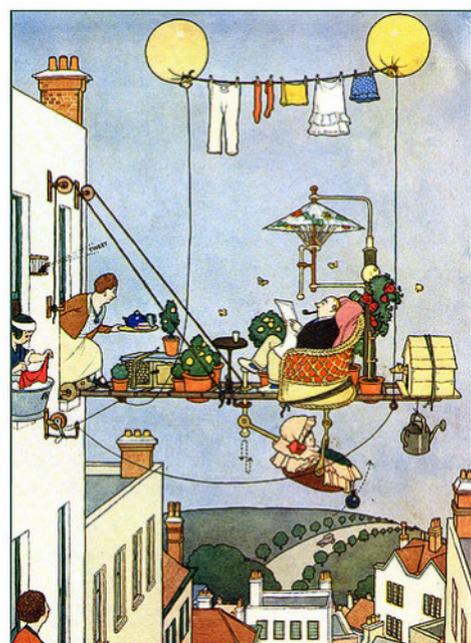
The consultation includes a variety of proposals. Some relate to the disposal of surplus local authority land, the work of the Canal & River Trust, and compulsory purchase powers for new town development corporations. None of these need concern us. However, there are other areas where the proposals need careful consideration. Some of them - to make change of use more straightforward - are relevant for us in Alnwick, but on the whole these are a sensible response to a changing landscape on the high street. They are unlikely to greatly concern members.

The proposals on permitted development rights - though - include options to extend existing buildings upwards in order to create new homes.

These proposals should greatly concern members of the society.

Thankfully, as members of Civic Voice, we have a national voice in such matters. Civic Voice has submitted a detailed response to the consultation, which we summarise here.

Permitted development rights enable property owners to make changes/carry out development without the need to apply for planning permission. In some cases, however, an applicant must seek prior approval for specified elements of the development via a cheaper and more streamlined route called the Prior Approval process. This process, essentially, means that the principle of the extension, or change of use of the property is granted, subject to certain conditions and limits. The local authority can only consider detailed



'specific matters' through the Prior Approval process, and these matters vary between the types of development or change of use proposed. For example, under the current Permitted Development rights, a single storey rear extension of up to 8m in length to a detached dwelling is permitted if no objections are received from neighbours. Only if an objection is received, is the local authority permitted to consider the

impact of the development on the amenity of adjoining properties and require amendments or refuse the Prior Approval. In this instance, matters such as the design of the extension and its impact on the street scene cannot be considered by the local authority.

Civic Voice supports making the most efficient use of land and understands the rationale for exploring the possibility of using the airspace above properties to provide new homes. However, given the high visibility and prominence of upward extensions and potential impact on the street scene, local character and amenity, very careful consideration of such proposals must be required.

## The consultation asks:

Do you think there is a role for a permitted development right to provide additional self-contained homes by extending certain premises upwards?

Do you think there is a role for local design codes to improve outcomes from the application of the proposed right?

Which is the more suitable approach to a new permitted development right:

a. that it allows premises to extend up to the roofline of the highest building in a terrace; or

b. that it allows building up to the prevailing roof height in the locality?

Civic Voice therefore objects to Option a) to allow premises to extend to the roofline of the highest building in a terrace unless full consideration of the 'design, siting and external appearance of the upward extension and its impact on amenity and character of the area' can be fully considered by the local authority. This is essential to ensure a proposed upward extension under Permitted Development amounts to 'good design, adds to the overall quality of the area... is visually attractive as a result of good architecture, responds to the local character and history of the area and maintains a strong sense of place', as required by the NPPF. Given the potential impacts to be considered for upward extensions, this may place

heavy burdens on local planning authorities and therefore, consideration through the standard planning application route may be more appropriate.

Civic Voice strongly object to Option b) building up to the prevailing roof height in the locality, which could be difficult to define, open to debate and set undesirable precedents. Any such proposals should, therefore, require full consideration through the standard planning application process.

Civic Voice support the exclusion of Conservation Areas and listed buildings from the new right.

It is not clear from the consultation document whether the upward extensions proposal to create additional new homes would only apply to 'certain existing buildings in high streets and town centres' or to certain buildings in commercial or residential use anywhere, excluding properties on protected land such as Conservation Areas. Civic Voice would welcome clarification on this matter.

In summary, we agree with the position that Civic Voice has adopted here. A "one-size-fits-all" proposal such as this might be acceptable in some areas, but could have a devastating effect on our local townscape. We are a small (but perfectly formed) local society. It's useful to have the backing of a national organisation with national profile and greater clout.



# Planning matters

Column Field – The new flagpole was erected in time for the remembrance service.

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The Maltings and Bolam's Mill, Dispensary Street – A discharge of conditions application indicates that some public parking has been taken over for parking for the residential development.

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We objected to the original proposals for additional signs at Percy Street Hall (Robson and Prescott Vets). We felt the signs would be unduly obtrusive, create a cluttered street scene and be harmful to the quality of the local environment. The proposals failed to match the character and distinctiveness of the town's historic townscape in terms of design, scale and materials. As such, they were contrary to Policy HD7 of the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan. The lettering proposed to be applied to the walls would be particularly out of character with the area in terms of both size and font. The proposed 'V' sign would be inappropriate in terms of size, design and materials. The Town Council submitted similar comments, so the scheme was simplified, then subsequently approved.

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Work has started on the Old Post Office, Clayport Street.

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Former Duke's Middle School – revised plans for redevelopment have been prepared.

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Greensfield – A discharge of conditions application in relation to the proposed cycle route for the Taylor Wimpey housing development has been submitted. The route was impossible to understand online.

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Sawmill Industrial Estate – the application for residential development (9 units) on land to the west of the Aldi store has been approved.

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1 – 4 Paikes Street – the change of use of the two shops to residential use has been permitted and work is underway.

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The Oddfellows Arms, Narrowgate – change of use from pub to residential and the erection of two single storey cottages to the rear had been approved. The development involves the removal of trees.

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3 Bailiffgate – An application to fell a tree has been submitted.

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Allerburn House – The proposals for the demolition of an extension to the house, conversion of the house to apartments and the construction of new build units in the grounds has been allowed on appeal.

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Land north east of Stoney Hills – The outline application for the development of 15 self-build housing plots (to which the Society objected) has been refused.

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Taylor Drive – Advertising consent is being sought for signs associated with the proposed M & S store. The Committee shares concerns with the Town Council about the visual impact of some of the signs and the impact on traffic sight lines. The Town Council has commented to this effect, and we agree with their position. At a primary gateway into the town these signs are too large for their location and purpose, and should be reduced in size. They cause concern over lines of sight, and potentially will distract drivers. And - interestingly - the design provides for eight name slots, yet the planning approval is for only six units. The Town Council quote three policies from the Neighbourhood Plan in support of their position. HD4 (Approaches to the Town), HD5 (Design in the Wider Town) and HD6 (Protecting Town Gateways). County Council officers have pointed out that the signs do not conform to Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (Amended 2017), legislation. Unless they are relocated NCC will be unable to accept the signs.

## Who is ready to help take the society forward?

*Our AGM will be held on the 20th March at St James Centre, in Pottergate. If you are interested in joining the committee, or in helping in any other way, then this would be a good time to get in touch.*

Nomination forms for the committee should be available with this newsletter (if not, just ask for one).

Under our constitution the management of the society is in the hands of an Executive Committee. This consists of three officers: a Chair, Treasurer and Honorary Secretary; along with up to eight other Executive Committee members.

Members of the Executive Committee may be co-opted during the year, but most are elected at the Annual General Meeting. So once a year there is an opportunity for members to bring additional expertise, fresh energy, and new ideas to the work of the society.

The Executive Committee is responsible for the management of the society. Naturally it deals with administrative essentials such as finances, and membership. Importantly, members of the Executive

Committee also take a lead in scrutinising planning applications, responding to consultations, organising activities for members, publishing a variety of printed and online material, and maintaining relationships with elected representatives, planning professionals, various national and local bodies, and media. The committee meets about once a month. When appropriate, sub-groups are formed to deal with specific issues.

The society has always been fortunate in being able to draw on a considerable amount of enthusiasm, and a broad range of expertise. If you know somebody who is ready to help to take the society forward, or if you have something to contribute yourself, then please return one (or more) of the nomination forms. We will be happy to provide additional forms if you need them.

If you would first like to know more about the work of the Executive Committee then any of the existing committee members would be happy to talk it over with you. And if you do not yet feel ready to join the Executive Committee, then there will no doubt be plenty of other opportunities to contribute during the year ahead.

# Controversial? That was probably the idea.

*From thousands of nominations, experts at Historic England have selected 100 places across the country that tell the story of England and its impact on the world. These are the three closest to Alnwick. Two in the category Faith and Belief and one in the category Industry, Trade and Commerce.*

**Lady's Well, near the village of Holystone:** This tranquil well, fed by a natural spring in rural Northumberland, is an atmospheric and peaceful spot steeped in religious tradition. People as far back as Roman times have used this well and a Roman road beside the spring runs from the fort of Bremenium Redesdale. Hundreds of years on, in the 5th century, a Celtic missionary called St. Ninian is said to have baptised people in this pool. And in 625 St. Paulinus arrived in the north of England, converted the Northumbrian King Edwin to Christianity and is said to have baptised a further 3000 people at Lady's Well during Easter week in 627. The great flat stone at one end of the well, used for baptisms, gave the nearby village of Holystone its name.

**Holy Island of Lindisfarne:** This small but special island, separated from the mainland at certain times of the day by the tide, was highly influential in shaping English Christianity. The monastery of Lindisfarne was founded by Saint Aidan in 635 and he, along with the monks he arrived with from Ireland, had two main purposes: to evangelise the North of England and to copy the sacred texts and histories of the early Church. One of the most important fruits of this labour is the breathtaking Lindisfarne Gospels, an illuminated manuscript, probably written for the shrine of St Cuthbert in Durham Cathedral. Lindisfarne has had a turbulent past. In the century after the Lindisfarne Gospels were produced it faced an early Viking invasion and later its

## Willowburn decision

*As the last edition of the newsletter went to press, the decision to dismiss the appeal on Willowburn was welcome. Not only because it retains an important piece of employment land, but also because it reinforces the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan.*

The final decision, by Nick Palmer, the Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State, was dated: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018. This was too late to include details in our previous edition. But we thought it was worth including a summary here - as a reminder of the weight that the inspector gave to the neighbourhood plan, and the importance of maintaining confidence in the system.

After outlining the relevant policies, the inspector identified that the main issue was whether the adverse impacts of allowing the proposed housing development would demonstrably outweigh the benefits of the scheme.

He felt that it was the employment policies that were most important. In some ways the housing policies allowed the proposal, without particularly favouring it. But policy E3 on Future Use of Existing Employment Sites said that "Proposals for the re-use or redevelopment of existing main industrial sites will be supported provided that they contribute to the creation and retention of employment and/or re-investment in the built fabric and infrastructure of these employment areas. Housing and retail will not be permitted on these sites. This (he said) was a specific requirement, not a matter of judgement. For these reasons the proposal would not accord with the development plan considered as a whole.

He felt that there were other important considerations. In

12th century monastic buildings became one of the first to be sacked in King Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries. Holy Island is also significant for its connection to The Venerable Bede, who spent some time there. Bede did much to make the Latin and Greek writings of the early Church Fathers more accessible to his contemporaries. His monastery at nearby Jarrow was a bright light of learning in Dark Age Europe and his Ecclesiastical History of the English People gained him the title "The Father of English History".

**Dunston Staiths, Gateshead:** At 1,709 feet long and 50 feet wide, this huge wooden jetty which curves out across the River Tyne is thought to be one of the largest timber structures in Europe. Staiths once lined the Tyne and were landing stages for shuttling coal from the North East's rich coalfields onto cargo ships, allowing the region to export its wares and trade globally. Coal was once the lifeblood of industry in England, fuelling industries like steel and heavy engineering. Whole communities were founded around collieries. In 1913, the Great North Coalfield employed almost 250,000 men and by the 1920s was producing over 56m tons of coal every year. Dunston Staiths were the last working staiths on the River Tyne, still standing as a reminder that the Tyne was one of the most important working rivers in the world. They eventually closed in 1980 and are now an unlikely ecological sanctuary for birds, saltwater plants and otters.

*You can find out more on the Historic England web site.*

<https://historicengland.org.uk/get-involved/100-places>

*Do you agree with their choices?*

particular he needed to consider whether or not the adverse effects would outweigh the benefits.

In making this judgement he didn't give much weight to the benefits of providing housing that was accessible by sustainable transport. He did, though, attach significant weight to the provision of affordable housing and to the economic benefits of construction jobs and such benefits to the local economy.

Where he found significant conflict between the proposal and the plan was in relation to employment policies. There were two reasons why the inspector felt this was so important. Firstly, there was the actual harm. A significant proportion of the trading estate would be lost and employment uses on the remaining areas of the estate may be prejudiced. He gave this a lot of weight because the effect on local employment would be permanent. The other reason this was important was because he felt that breaching the policy would undermine confidence in the whole plan-led system.

He concluded that the substantial and very significant weights arising from the adverse impacts of allowing the proposed housing development, including the harm to the supply of employment land would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits of the scheme. And therefore that the appeal should be dismissed.

*Some aspects of this decision were specific to the proposed development. However, it won't be the last time we will find disagreement over the weight that should be given to the Neighbourhood Plan. It's an important milestone.*

# News in Brief

Members will have been saddened to hear the news that at the age of 90, Ritchie Waddell passed away at the start of the year. Well known in the town, Ritchie served on different Alnwick councils for over 50 years, was mayor in 1970 and 1984, and an early and active member of Alnwick Civic Society. Our condolences to his family.

We have a new web site. The intent is to use this to publicise forthcoming events, and to provide more frequent updates on activities. So we hope you will add [www.alnwickcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.alnwickcivicsociety.org.uk) to your favourites.

We are continuing to deliver talks and walks based on the Some Alnwick Heritage Heroes project. Most recently we gave a talk for the Hard of Hearing Group that meets at St Pauls Court, a walk for Northumberland Archaeology Group, a talk to Morpeth Civic Society (which gave us an opportunity to share ideas and experiences with their members and committee), and a talk in support of the appeal for Hindmarsh Hall in Alnmouth. Now the Village Hall, and an important venue for community events, the Hindmarsh Hall was originally an 18th century granary - one of the oldest surviving in Alnmouth. It was altered in the mid 19th century, probably used as a corn exchange before being remodelling as an Anglican chapel in 1859; then became the village hall after the parish church was built in 1876. The appeal is to raise funds for conservation.

Congratulations to the joint winners in our 2018 Christmas shop front competition: Elemental in Fenkle Street, and the Salvation Army in Bondgate With-in.



The Town Centre Working Group has identified the Society as lead organisation for a 'street pride' campaign to reduce street clutter. We have started with a pilot survey of clutter in the town centre based on advice produced by Civic Voice.

An initial survey was carried out on a cold Saturday by committee members Peter Ennor, Gill Parker, Susan Smith, Mary and John Hipwell, and David Lovie (the photographer - so not pictured). We have now started to compile a list of redundant and excessive signage, inappropriate parking, obsolete and damaged street furniture, etc. This will form the basis for further analysis and more (warmer) surveys are planned. If you would be interested in participating please get in touch.



The drop-in session held by Alnwick Forum on November 17th in the Northumberland Hall was well-attended. Members of the public were invited to comment

on the future for the former Lindisfarne Middle School site, the former Duchess Community High School site (Howling Lane) as well as the Pedestrian Safety Improvements in Narrowgate and

an update on The Playhouse. Based on the first couple of hundred questionnaires the town council were briefed that:

### What people want:

- a new bus station
- more shops
- fewer charity shops
- more sports facilities

### What people don't like:

- empty shops
- lack of parking
- speeding cars
- the state of the bus station



### DCHS site (Howling Lane)

- more car parking
- more housing
- more green space

### Lindisfarne School site

- a community hub/adult education centre
- sports facilities and green space
- a drop-in centre
- some more housing
- protection of green space

### Narrowgate

What safety improvements do people wanted to see? Strong support for pedestrianisation

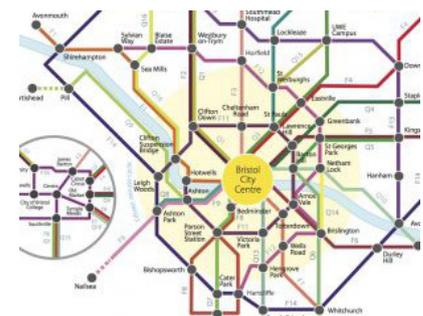
### People's top priorities

- town centre improvements
- more green spaces
- improved sports and leisure facilities.

How many people do you know who cycle in Alnwick?

For the last couple of years campaigners in Bristol have been using a form of "tube map" to show how a network of high quality cycle routes can help to make everyone feel safe using sustainable forms of transport, encourage more cycling, and cut congestion.

Alnwick's Sustainable Transport Working Group has started to compile a similar "tube" map of the key cycle routes in Alnwick. Nobody expects anything on the scale of what has been achieved in Bristol (shown here). However, the first indications are that surprisingly little would be needed to join up and strengthen the routes that are already in place.



# Not the polar vortex quiz (just cold winter weather)

In February 1864 the Alnwick Mercury published a poem with the title "Cold Winter Weather". Fortunately we don't have space to repeat all of the woes that were catalogued. An extract is enough to illustrate the general tone that it sustained through seven verses - before ending on a more uplifting note.

*Many the ills that round us twine,  
Our bosom-joys depressing.  
And many woes and wars combine  
To make our times distressing;  
But times may change—though lowering now.  
And dark clouds 'round us gather,  
As Spring will drive from Cheviot's brow  
The cold winter weather!*

In the same spirit, we hope all members will find that spring 2019 drives away any dark clouds. Did Alnwick look so different under a blanket of snow? (answers on back page)



## Diary dates

### Civic Society...

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at St James's on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March. It's your opportunity to celebrate our achievements in 2018 and look forward to another busy year. We have invited Bill Batey to speak on his experience as Town Clerk.

It was a disappointment to many when we had to postpone last year's talk by Fiona White on the Tunnels of Alnwick. So we anticipate healthy interest on the date that has been rearranged - 22<sup>nd</sup> May in St James's Centre, Pottergate at 7:30.

On 10<sup>th</sup> July it's our summer outing - for a talk on the story of the Bowl Hole Ossuary at Bamburgh, with Jessica Turner.

November: our regular Any Questions topical debate - details to be announced.

### ...and more

Cragside: various dates from 12<sup>th</sup> Feb to 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

Behind the scenes house conservation tour. Join the house team for a spring clean. Discover classic Victorian cleaning methods, and enjoy a behind the scenes tour of the servants wing of the house, usually closed to the public.

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 18:00 Newcastle Literary & Philosophical society: The Border on Shakespeare's Stage with Lisa Hopkins. What did Shakespeare and his fellow dramatists know about the Border? Quite a lot, actually. Lisa Hopkins is Professor of English at Sheffield Hallam University and co-editor of Shakespeare, the journal of the British Shakespeare Association. Her books include Shakespeare on the Edge: Border-crossing in the Tragedies and the Henriad and From the Romans to the Normans on the English Renaissance Stage.



## About Alnwick Civic Society

Alnwick Civic Society was formed in the 1970s, following the defeat of proposals to re-develop the town centre with a modern shopping area. Since then it has sought to influence development proposals, especially in the town centre and conservation area, to ensure they protect and enhance our heritage.

The society has been involved in successful high profile campaigns. It continues to pursue its objectives and provide a voice for members: through dialogue with planning and conservation professionals, and like-minded organisations; by offering advice, scrutinising and commenting on development proposals; and by recognising excellence, organising public meetings, developing guided trails, and a variety of other activities.

In response to changes in the planning system the society has been heavily involved in development of the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan, and works with local partners to influence policy at a county level. It seeks to influence national policy in co-operation with other bodies within the civic movement, and was a founding member of Civic Voice.

All who share our aims can support the work of the society: by joining as an individual, family or business member; by participating in activities, sharing ideas, raising areas of concern and pointing out examples of good practice. Or simply by demonstrating pride in our town, and spreading the word about the value of our work.



### Who's Who?

**President:** Philip Deakin

**Chair:** Peter Ennor ([peter.ennor@gmail.com](mailto:peter.ennor@gmail.com))

**Treasurer and Membership:** Gill Parker

**Honorary Secretary:** Sue Smith

**Other Executive Committee members:**

John Hipwell

Mary McIlroy Hipwell

Elizabeth Jones

David Lovie ([davidlovie307@btinternet.com](mailto:davidlovie307@btinternet.com))

Peter Reed / Newsletter ([peter.reed@aligre.co.uk](mailto:peter.reed@aligre.co.uk))

**Web:** [www.alnwickcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.alnwickcivicsociety.org.uk)

**Email:** [alnwickcivicsoc@gmail.com](mailto:alnwickcivicsoc@gmail.com)

**Twitter:** [@AlnwickCivicSoc](https://twitter.com/AlnwickCivicSoc)

**Facebook:** [AlnwickCivicSociety](https://www.facebook.com/AlnwickCivicSociety)

## Chapeau!

We raise our hats to all those Freeriders who refuse to let the weather get in the way of enjoying the Bike Track.



## Quiz Answers

- a) St Michael's Pant
- b) General Lambert's House
- c) The Barbican
- d) Bondgate Tower
- e) St Paul's Church (gatepost)
- f) Pinkfold
- g) Robertson's Fountain