



Thanks for helping us

A Note from Wooler
Neighbourhood Plan
Group!

In February, we asked for your views on the proposed framework for Wooler Neighbourhood Plan, and about specific areas for plan policies. We are now working up the draft of the Plan which we hope to circulate by the summer.

The framework (the Vision and Objectives statement) has been built from the issues raised in all the consultation, surveys and other evidence we brought together in 2017.

For the consultation last month, we encouraged people to look at the Vision and Objectives statement through:

- Emails to everyone who has asked to be in touch, or is on our contact list of local businesses and organisations
- Emails to the formal bodies we have to consult with, as well as neighbouring parish councils
- Distributed information about the consultation to all businesses not in email contact
- Put up posters around Wooler alerting people, and put display posters in a High Street shop
- Provided information on our Facebook page and the WNP website
- Held a Drop –in Session on February 15th
- Provided opportunities for people to comment on post-its at the Drop In event, or on the website, or on a paper copy.

We got good comments which have been very helpful to us.

Key comments we are taking forward into the Plan are:

- More emphasis needed to tourism and the role of Wooler as a Gateway to the Cheviots
- More emphasis needed to Wooler's role as a service centre for the wider area
- Include the natural environment as well as landscape, townscape and heritage
- Phrase policies so that they don't restrict innovative and appropriate development
- Focus on opportunities for young as well as old
- Do something about parking, and footpaths
- Do something about making South Road look better

Many comments were generally supportive of the framework and policy ideas. Some related to things that the Plan itself cannot help with, and are more appropriately treated as Community Actions.

Responses to all comments received are provided below.

Thanks very much for your help!

WNP Steering Group
March 2018

WNP Vision and Objectives Consultation February 2018

Comments Received and Responses

Issues for WNP and for Significant Community Actions highlighted in yellow

CC = comment received at the Feb 15th Drop in (Note: We have no way of knowing identifying when a comment on one page is from the same person as on another page!)

PH = other comments recorded by PH.

SW = recorded by SW. (Web = comment left on the web.

Each comment is referenced by a number used for all comments made by that respondent

GENERAL

No	Response from...	Comment	Response
PH1	NNPS	(comments inserted on Local Economy page, but see general point re tourism and role as a Gateway)	Put in Intro to the Plan
PH2	NFU	<p><i>NFU themes: (extract from response)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening our farming businesses to help them build profitability and respond to new opportunities 2. To create thriving localities which meet the needs of their communities, businesses and their environment 3. Realising the value of the region's environmental assets <p><i>NFU priorities: (extract from response)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ability for the next generation to take on management of farms and to support this through the provision of affordable housing to allow succession 2. Develop farming enterprises that can meet the challenges of food security through modernising and becoming more efficient 	<p>Thanks and noted</p> <p>Our vision promotes this view</p> <p>Thanks - we will add this to our Landscape section</p> <p>Thanks and agreed</p> <p>Thanks and noted</p>
PH7	NCC	The proposed Vision and Objectives look promising. There currently appear to be no proposals that would be contrary to the general thrust of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) or Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).	Thanks

SW2	English Heritage	<p>In addition, I would encourage you to consider whether other planning policy topics can help achieve your aims and objectives:</p> <p>ensuring development proposals affecting heritage assets are based on a sound understanding of their significance (I refer you to the annex of the National Planning Policy Framework for handy definitions of terms used in heritage planning policy),</p> <p>using the plan to offer solutions to any heritage at risk in the plan area; your plan area currently contains no entries on the national Heritage At Risk Register, but you might like to consider any Grade II listed buildings or non-designated heritage assets which could become vulnerable to poor condition or vacancy during the life of the plan,</p> <p>considering how the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits flowing from it can be maximised, eg. through tourism, learning, leisure, wellbeing and enjoyment.</p> <p>We have recently enhanced our general information and guidance on how heritage can be incorporated into neighbourhood plans, signposting a number of documents and case studies which you might find useful: www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/plan-making/improve-your-neighbourhood/. This includes advice on involving local people with knowledge on your heritage.</p>	<p>Thanks and noted</p> <p>Refer as a Community Action</p> <p>Thanks and noted</p> <p>Thanks and noted</p>
SW3	Natural England	<p>Thank you for your email dated 08/02/2018 notifying Natural England of the above Neighbourhood Planning Area.</p> <p>Natural England does not wish to make comment on the Vision and Objectives Consultation Document.</p> <p>However we would like to take this opportunity to provide you with information sources the neighbourhood planning body may wish to use in developing the plan, and to highlight some of the potential environmental risks and opportunities that</p>	<p>Thanks and noted</p>

SW5	Member of public	Before embarking on a plan for the future Wooler needs a big tidy up. The pavements and some roadsides in some parts of Wooler are a mess of heaps of leaves and turds which have laid about all winter. The people of Wooler do not seem to get any street cleaning done. We go to Berwick. Morpeth, Alnwick, Hexham etc. and streets and roads get cleaned there. The people of Wooler pay their council tax to NCC the same as people in the rest of Northumberland and should be entitled to the same services. This needs sorted.	Thanks and noted You might be unaware that the community organises an annual street clean.
SW6	Member of public	During my ..?.. most occupations in Wooler I have been involved in 3 plans/guides/statements. I have no evidence that they carry any weight. I have completed countless questionnaires and have seen the results of only those I have been directly involved in proceeding. Could someone do us the courtesy of publicising/displaying/advertising the results of this one? - not just on line: I am not writing this on line	Thanks and noted. We will make sure that all relevant information will be in hard copy in the library

COMMENTS ON VISION

No	Contact details	Comment	Response
CC1	Member of public	An excellent Vision for Wooler. Well done	Thanks for your encouraging comments
CC2	Member of public	Agree with this but would add “we will promote Wooler as a place to live and work”. We are competing against other towns for people	Thanks , we will amend our Vision
CC3	Member of public	You must be aware not to deter Business from coming to Wooler with petty planning reasons	Thanks and noted
CC4	Member of public	Not just the historic environment but the natural environment needs considering	Thanks - we will add this to our Landscape section
PH1	NNP	(Note position of Wooler as a Gateway to the NP. See his points under Local Economy)	Thanks and noted
PH3	Member of public	I’m disappointed that there’s little reference to Wooler’s hinterland given the interdependence between the two and the dependence of more rural dwellers and visitors on Wooler for a range of services and who, therefore, represent a source of income and sustainability for enterprise and community in the town – this point also refers to the agri-business and other land based industries which the hinterland represents – where would Wooler Mart and other businesses be without a farming context?	Thanks and noted
PH5	Member of public	Lets hope this vision becomes a reality soon! And that ‘restrictions’ don’t come in the way of quick progress to meet the needs of the ‘residents’ in the future	We wholeheartedly agree!
PH7	NCC	<p>The vision appears to be reasonable and achievable through planning policy that is in line with relevant higher tier policy documents. In terms of ease of reading it may be better to separate into paragraphs, see suggestion below:</p> <p>“By 2034, Wooler will have a vibrant and balanced community.</p> <p>To sustain shops and services, and to achieve a more even mix of young and old, Wooler will grow. Growth will ensure new development provides the right type and mix of housing to cater for all ages.</p> <p>Our town centre will continue to flourish and Wooler will have more opportunities</p>	Thanks

		<p>for business enterprise to start and to grow, with an emphasis on providing more employment opportunities, especially for younger people.</p> <p>All these aspirations are set within the context of respecting and making the most of our special landscape, townscape and distinct local heritage.”</p>	
PH9	Member of public	<p>Very clear vision. The employment opportunities are important and key to moving forward with growth.</p> <p>Lets hope it all fits in with what people want.</p>	Thanks
PH9	Member of public	<p>What’s not to like?</p> <p>Lets see if it can happen.</p>	Thanks
PH11	Member of public	Agree	Thanks
SW1	GGT	The vision and objectives are well crafted, but do seem at times 'inward looking' and protective.	Thanks and noted
SW Web1	Member of public	Integrated social and business community	Thanks and noted
SW Web3	Member of public	<p>I totally agree with this vision. However reading through the objectives there is no mention of the old railways lines. Has consideration been given to the protection of these lines, for future development into walking/cycle/bridleway paths for recreational use or as a means of getting around the area, a connection to other villages and possibly towns like Berwick and Alnwick. Land adjacent to the old lines preserved for businesses linked to this. ie Car Parking/ Cafes/Cycle hire/cycle repair. I believe something like this would be a great asset to the town a facility for use by the residents and tourist alike.</p>	<p>Thanks</p> <p>There are a number of Community Actions to address these e.g. to review and extend footpaths and bike paths in the parish and beyond</p>
SW Web4	Member of public	<p>Your ambitions for a sustainable, vibrant and friendly future delivered sensitively is commendable.</p> <p>As a recent relocater to this lovely area it does seem that we do let the side down occasionally although we should also applaud those who strive to improve the environment.</p>	Thanks for your encouragement
SW Web5	Member of public	<p>The vision is great - "more opportunities", "employment opportunities, especially for younger people" - all good.</p> <p>However, it doesn't always feel as if that vision was feed through to the rest of the document.</p>	<p>Thanks for your encouragement</p> <p>We hope you will be more encouraged by the next draft of the plan.</p>

SW4	Member of public	Excellent plan, a town to be proud of	Thanks for your encouragement
SW5	Member of public	This plan and vision seems to cover most things and gives plenty of scope to work on	Thanks
SW6	Member of public	We are not living for 2034. Development should be ongoing and take account of now. Houses that come on the market take years to sell. There are empty houses for rent in Wooler. What evidence is there that we need more homes?	Thanks and noted. See the Housing section and background material in the draft plan

COMMENTS ON LANDSCAPE, TOWNSCAPE and HERITAGE

No	Contact details	Comment	Response
CC1	Member of public	Very positive	Thanks
CC2	Member of public	Major junctions around market place need re-modelling before install a fountain (less road/more non-road)	Thanks and noted. There are a number of Community Actions to address these
CC3	Member of public	Ensure that development does not detract from or damage surrounding wildlife and birdlife – very important	Thanks - we will add this to our Landscape section
CC4	Member of public	For outlying area development, strict floor space limits on any non-residential elements	Thanks and noted
CC5	Member of public	Quality design – create a design statement for new developments over 5 houses. Parish Council to approve it. NCC to implement it.	Thanks and noted. See the Housing section and background material in the draft plan
CC6	Member of public	Create a riverside walk	Thanks - There is Community Action to address this
CC6	Member of public	Improve South Road – not a good introduction to Wooler. Fill empty shops on the High Street	Thanks and noted. This will be in a policy that is being developed Sadly, WNP cannot do this directly
PH5	Member of public	We need to look forward and meet all the needs you specify without unnecessary delay	Thanks and noted
PH7	NCC	The objective is broadly supported, subject to comments below. The special character of the town and surrounding landscapes are widely recognised. The process of site allocations for development will lead to the need to conduct a full Strategic Environmental Assessment at Pre-Submission stage of the Neighbourhood Plans development. This should be built in to timetabling. The methodology for identifying sites should have regard to the need to satisfy basic conditions and be in broad compliance with the NPPF guidelines.	Thanks and noted

PH7	NCC	The policy area may need to consider viability issues associated with the redevelopment of derelict sites.	Thanks and noted
PH9	Member of public	Wooler needs to grow to keep the population a good mix of ages. Sites could be very attractive and if blend into landscape and don't stick out like sore thumbs, houses would be OK towards the hills. Don't let things put good housing into 2 nd place. Small housing settlements can be beautiful and can make a view even better	Thanks and noted - see draft plan
PH10	Member of public	How can we as residents influence developers' designs? Are there ways in which we can support young people interested in architecture and in becoming architects?	WNP policies on design should help Nice idea but not a WNP matter
PH11	Landowner	Note that the exact boundary between GS6 and Site 24 is unsettled. Consult before produce WNPlan Map.	Thanks and noted
SW2	Historic England	National Planning Practice Guidance says that, where relevant, neighbourhood plans should include enough information about local heritage to guide planning decisions and to put strategic heritage policy into action at a neighbourhood scale. Your Objective 1, landscape, townscape and heritage, is an excellent starting point for this. I welcome the positive tone of the ambition under this objective, suggesting a proactive use of the historic environment to encourage investment, regeneration and tourism.	Thanks
SW Web1	Landowner	One theme/ style for High street? A697 through Wooler needs appropriate sympathetic screening. Check planning permissions for storage yards etc etc	Thanks and noted. There are Community Actions to address issues around South Road
SW Web4	Member of public	Let me expand those views; visitors driving through the area on the A697 could be forgiven for thinking they are not driving through a nice area at all. Whilst some businesses have embraced improvement these are	Thanks and noted. There are Community Actions to address issues around South Road

		dragged down by the few who obviously do not care how our town is seen by others. The deprivation seen would be more akin to a suburb of Newcastle-upon-Tyne rather than a lovely quaint Northumberland town.	
SW Web5	Member of public	There is no detail here. Am I expecting too much? With all the detailed and repeated consultation that has been carried out, you must have a very clear idea of the type of development that folk are looking for, and the locations where people would like to see that development, yet it is all very vague... I wonder if that was intentional. I was disappointed not to have something I could get my teeth into.	Thanks. We hope you will be more encouraged by the next draft of the plan.
SW4	Member of public	No further development on Ramsey's Lane which already has too many heavy wagons	Thanks and noted
SW5	Member of public	Urgent need to demolish wood garages housing antiques and prefab. building on other side of road. These buildings make it look like you are entering a Wild West shanty town. trees and fence up Peth beyond the new fence urgently in need of attention. Redevelopment of Redpath's Garage.	Thanks and noted. There are Community Actions to address issues around South Road
SW6	Member of public	High quality design? Then get rid of the gaudy and quite inappropriate signage of the chip shops on the High Street. Of course derelict sites should be made more attractive - and attractive sites should not become building sites. Our green spaces, both large and small are our chief assets. Leave them alone.	Thanks and note the existing Conservation Area Policy. We will be identifying selected green spaces in the draft plan
SW8	Member of public	We are very supportive of the objectives of the plan and in particular on the regeneration of the A697 derelict sites between The Peth and Berwick Road. Wooler needs to improve the appearance at this gateway to the town	Thanks and noted. There are Community Actions to address issues around South Road

COMMENTS ON LOCAL ECONOMY

No	Contact details	Comment	Response
CC1	Member of public	Totally Agree	Thanks
CC2	Member of public	“Protect” can be problematic. We need to make sure Wooler develops appropriately, ie we welcome change if it’s the right sort of change.	Thanks. Where appropriate the wording will be changed
CC3	Member of public	Access to a Fibre cabinet should be a planning condition for new housing developments over 5 units	Thanks and noted. See Housing section in the draft plan.
CC4	Member of public	Support policies which allow subdivision of retail units over a certain size	In most cases this is already possible without permission.
CC5	Member of public	Improve WiFi – not good at Haugh Head. Needs a fibre cabinet there	Thanks and agreed
PH1	NNPA	<p>the role of Wooler as a gateway settlement of Northumberland National Park is something that could potentially be expanded upon particularly in relation to tourism and leisure and how this supports the local economy, something which you wish to see enhanced in accordance with proposed objective 2.</p> <p>for me, tourism and it’s potential for contributing to and boosting the local economy (linking with its key gateway status for the National Park and beyond) is something that is currently missing. The links between Wooler and settlements within the National Park (e.g. Kirknewton) could also be mentioned in how they are interlinked socially and economically, something that the plan could aim to support (in addition to the potential provision of joint infrastructure and services) in partnership with the National Park Authority and County Council – this could be an extra potential planning policy area under objective 2.</p>	Thanks and agreed - see draft plan.
PH2	NFU (extract from their response)	“In response to these challenges farmers have had to consider the resources available to them and look at new ways of developing their businesses so that they can grow and remain competitive. This might include the need for	Thanks and noted

		modern agricultural buildings either to meet regulations or to change the use of existing buildings in order to respond to changing market demand. “	
PH3	Member of public	needs more reference to tourism as a key economic activity - this links with comment on hinterland - Wooler is where people come to for services and for its intrinsic heritage value!	Thanks and noted - see draft plan
PH5	Member of public	We need to look carefully at transport needs of those in the community so they can access the shopping centre .. ie a community bus	Thanks and noted
PH7	NCC	The objective is supported. Policies seeking to protect employment land will need to take into account Paragraph 51 of the NPPF. This paragraph requires strong economic arguments to be made in order to resist change of use of commercial and industrial premises to residential.	Thanks and noted
PH9	Member of public	Wooler needs help from wider Northumberland to attract large business, not just smallscale hubs Agree we want to hang onto shops as long as we can but if its clear that a building isn't viable any longer as a shop it would be good if it could have another use. Best of all would be community use. We need to hang on to what we have.	Thanks -see draft plan.
PH10	Member of public	Could we create a competition for the best idea for the derelict sites we have, such as the Ferguson site, before caravans take over the world? A competition for the schools and clubs in Wooler – best design idea, with a significant prize to make it attractive. This would also attract publicity in the local press.	Thanks, interesting idea but this is not directly a WNP issue
PH11	Landowner	There is an opportunity to develop Glendale Business Park further, but not at present considering this.	Thanks and noted
SW1	GGT	not sufficient attention paid in the current draft to tourism and land-based industries, given their importance to the town.	Thanks and see draft plan
SW Web 1	landowner	Two pronged. 1 make it renowned for online facilities/speeds to encourage work at home etc	Thanks and noted

		2 Co-ordination of businesses	
SW Web5	Member of public	Not a mention of 'Tourism', 'Visitors' or the fact that our employment and local economy is HUGELY dependent on the tourist trade. Eating places, accommodation, visitor attractions, events - none of these feature at all in the plan! This reduces the credibility of the plan enormously in my eyes.	Thanks, noted and see draft plan
SW4	Member of public	A vibrant town needs a variety of shops and businesses - a greengrocers would be great.	Thanks and noted
SW5	Member of public	What is needed with regard to shops is competition for the Co-op which has a monopoly and charges whatever prices it can get away with.	Thanks and noted
SW6	Member of public	Many small businesses start as market stalls. let's have Sunday Markets in the bus station - food and crafts only. This would make use of an area that is otherwise wasted. We do, however, need a decent supermarket - somewhere by the 697.	Thanks and noted. Currently being explored.
SW8	Kirknewton PC	We considered the problem of the impact of internet shopping on both the retail on the high Street and on Banking. Wooler does have a good mix of typical High Street shops as well as specialist shops. Efforts should be made to build on this offering and encourage further niche shopping catering for visitors. One of the further issues is the seasonal variation of the population and we feel that a balance needs to be achieved between further expansion of the holiday accommodation (caravan sites) and permanent residential building. A suggestion was to accept the seasonal fluctuation in trade and perhaps encourage "pop up" shops and restaurants to cater for the increase during the summer months. Empty shops and Bank could be used by making the renting of the premises at a advantageous/ subsidised rate?	Thanks and noted

COMMENTS ON HOUSING

No	Contact details	Comment	Response
CC1	Member of public	Good housing policies	Thanks
CC2	Member of public	Convert Ryecroft Hotel into a Care Home	Thanks and noted
CC3	Member of public	Make use of Ferguson's Yard for development. Develop Ferguson's Yard. It is an eyesore at the entrance to Wooler	Thanks and noted. There are Community Actions to address issues around South Road
CC4	Member of public	Fully concur. Very positive	Thanks
CC5	Member of public	Starter homes a great idea. Develop South Road for housing	Thanks and noted - see draft plan.
PH3	Member of public	Housing and supported housing – as well as the WNP supporting the provision of more housing, I'd suggest there's a reference to an increased variety of supported housing, to account for new initiatives over time and varying needs for support – cross reference with dementia and other mental health issues, as well as physical conditions with age. housing conversion – suggest maintaining consistency by exempting buildings on industrial sites from conversion to housing.	Thanks and noted
PH4	Member of public	Bungalows to purchase + 3 bed houses	Thanks and noted Thanks and noted. See the Housing section and background material in the draft plan
PH5	Member of public	Let's hope the Coop building could be used for a Community facility or Housing on the High Street. Some landlords have places that have been left derelict for years above their premises. This needs to be looked at soon!	Thanks and noted
PH7	NCC	The objective is supported. See comments above in respect of site allocations. (see under LTH)	Noted
PH9	Member of public	Yes to extra care. Yes to sites, use roads in and out of Wooler beside Mart and Haugh Head What about housing for young adults in 20-55 age group.	Thanks and noted - see draft plan

		Co-Op houses and others just for older people. Younger people not eligible. The very people we want to stay aren't able to get affordable rented housing.	
PH10		We don't need more houses, we need <u>affordable</u> houses	Thanks and noted - see draft plan
PH11	Landowner	Support live-work space and self-build units. Allocate land adjacent to Site 24 on Weetwood Road for housing. Not easy to get large builders to come to Wooler, and then get them to design appropriately. Brownfield site development and conversion of existing buildings takes funds and effort!	Thanks and noted - see maps and draft plan
SW2	Historic England	Under you possible design policy, you could consider how the plan can be used to guide the scale, density, massing, height, landscape, layout, materials and access of new development proposals. For the possible site allocations policy, it will be important to ensure suitable evidence is taken into account (see below for our advice note on this). <i>Good Practice Advice Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (2015), and Advice Note 3: The Historic Environment & Site Allocations in Local Plans (2015), which also applies to neighborhood plans. More can be found at www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/latest-guidance/.</i>	Thanks and noted
SW Web1	Landowner	Free up more to encourage house builders to come here. Make sites 'oven ready' as easy as possible with specific proactive council approach and attitude	Thanks and noted. We aim to allocate sites.
SW Web5	Member of public	This is more positive and well thought through, but I worry about an emphasis on housing for older people - we need affordable, suitable housing for young families as well.	Thanks and noted
SW4	Member of public	All new housing needs off-road parking and sensitive tree planting	Thanks and noted - see draft plan
SW5	Member of public	What is needed is more social housing at affordable rents. Building affordable houses in a rural area is just a joke if it usually unaffordable. Something needs to be done with the old first school.	Thanks and noted - see draft plan
SW6	Member of public	Until recently we had a sheltered housing provision that was popular. It was pulled down and replaced with something,	Thanks and noted - see draft plan

		admittedly attractive, but why were the growing numbers of elderly not considered?	
SW8	Kirknewton PC	We support the objectives and proposals with regard to the building of more and better affordable and low cost housing and care facilities for the elderly.	Thanks and noted - see draft plan

COMMENTS ON COMMUNITY

No	Contact details	Comment	Response
CC1	Member of public	We very much agree with a cemetery and also a crematorium. Will bring lots of footfall and business to the area	Thanks and noted
CC2	Member of public	Extend cemetery and crematorium in Old First school	Thanks and noted
CC3	Member of public	St Mary;s Churchyard could be used	Thanks and noted
CC4	Member of public	More for the <u>Under 60s.</u> Need new cemetery/crematorium	Thanks and noted
CC5	Member of public	Community gym	Thanks and noted
PH3	Member of public	Community facilities – sometimes they are past their use by date! Suggest an approach that ensures community facilities are replaced with something equivalent and with long term sustainability and fit for purpose, rather than maintaining mausoleums	Thanks and noted - see draft plan
PH5	Member of public	This idea of a cemetery is one which we have to make a “priority”. The nearest place for cremation is Kelso. Eyemouth to the north and Blyth/Newcastle to the south. This must cost a fortune for the families and individuals to take their loved ones for burial/cremation. A crematorium will also bring footfall to Wooler and increase business opportunities to the area, local shops etc.	Thanks and noted
PH7	NCC	The objective is supported.	Thanks
PH9	Member of public	Hang on to what we have IF THERE IS A NEED FOR IT, but make sure there is a need. We need a proper community centre and indoor sports facility and play facilities for young people and younger adults to make this a great place for real people to come and want to stay – attract families if proper leisure place where we can all get together.	Thanks and noted
PH10	Member of public	Sport and leisure activities will become more and more necessary to keep everyone fitter. There are keep-fit classes in Wooler – they need to be developed <u>much</u> more to keep mature people moving.	Thanks and noted

		Can there be some input from schools – cross-fertilisation of ideas?	
PH11	Member of public	It would be good to expand the cemetery onto the First School site. OK to protect outdoor facilities so long as this doesn't stop improving them	Thanks and noted
SW1	GGT	<p><i>Protect existing community facilities from change of use (for example St Mary's Parish Rooms, The Glendale Hall, The Cheviot Centre)</i></p> <p>The policy as it stands implies locking in use in perpetuity. In our view this brings with it risks that we end up with redundant buildings and spaces of zero value and discourages co-location and partnership approaches.</p> <p>We agree it is crucial to try and support facilities and services and believe the way to do this is often to encourage the linking and co-location of services in the interests of long term sustainability. This often results in spaces that were historically used as community facilities no longer needed or indeed a capital receipt needed from those spaces to invest in something which is an improvement.</p> <p>It is important to recognise that services and facilities come and go, the need to change and adapt is paramount. We suggest a flexible approach that ensures community facilities are replaced with something equivalent or better, with long term sustainability and fit for purpose,</p>	Thanks and noted. We hope you will be more encouraged by the next draft of the plan.
SW Web 1	Landowner	Focus on one theme and do it well. Eg Northumberland Most Cycle Friendly County in UK with Wooler at the centre.	Thanks and noted There are a number of Community Actions to address this e.g. to review and extend footpaths and bike paths in the parish and beyond
SW Web5	Member of public	There is an accent on 'protecting' here, when we need to be aware that communities develop and change, as do their needs. Whilst we want to retain valuable features and buildings, we don't want to live in a preservation bubble -	Thanks and noted

		there must be the opportunity for changing needs (that none of us can foresee) to be reflected by changing or adapting facilities as opportunities arise.	
SW4	Member of public	Excellent	Thanks
SW5	Member of public	Leisure Centre a very good idea	Thanks and noted
SW6	Member of public	We <u>all</u> need to recognise how lucky we are to have the Cheviot Centre. Holiday makers do need bad-weather activities. Could the caravan site owners not be encouraged to make provision?	Thanks and noted
SW7	Member of public	<p>I support the general approach of trying to ensure our community facilities are added to but a crucial issue is sustainability. I have particular concerns about the policy below: Objective 4: Community Life Proposed Policy: Protect existing community facilities from change of use (for example St Mary's Parish Rooms, The Glendale Hall, The Cheviot Centre)</p> <p>I agree that it is crucial to try and support facilities and services and believe the way to do this is often to encourage the linking and co-location of services in the interests of long term sustainability. This often results in spaces that were historically used as community facilities no longer needed or indeed a capital receipt needed from those spaces to invest in something which is an improvement.</p> <p>The policy as it stands infers locking in use in perpetuity. In my view this brings with it risks that we end up with redundant buildings and spaces of zero value and discourages co-location and partnership approaches.</p> <p>It is important to recognise that services and facilities come and go, the need to change and adapt is paramount; a flexible approach is essential for survival.</p>	Thanks and noted. We hope you will be more encouraged by the next draft of the plan.

COMMENT ACCESSIBILITY

No	Contact details	Comment	Response
CC1	Member of public	Ryecroft Way-High Street by Loretto needs a pavement. Awkward for both pedestrians and motorists. 20 mph limit?	Thanks and noted - see Community Action
CC2	Member of public	Improve signage on public footpaths	Thanks and noted - see Community Action
CC3	Member of public	A solar-powered shuttle bus (or other innovative and eco-friendly) to go up and down the Peth – to link the lower and upper town, and be an intriguing/attractive addition to the town	Thanks and noted
CC4	Member of public	Consider residents only parking in Glendale Road	Thanks and noted
CC5	Member of public	More visitors/tourists = more car parking required	Thanks and noted - see draft plan
PH3	Member of public	Maintain existing footpaths and rights of way, both as access value and heritage – thinking of some of the routes through town that reflect its history – all part of the tourism offer as well as enriching the environment for successor generations	Thanks and noted - see Community Action reviewing footpaths and bike paths
PH5	Member of public	We need a Community Bus for those in the Weetwood area of the town and also outlying areas. This will bring in more footfall to Wooler. A 'Dentist' is a must. The nearest NHS dentist is in Tweedmouth or Alnwick. How do our residents manage to get dental health checks on their Teeth, without it costing them a fortune in time, petrol to go to Berwick and Alnwick. Car Parking a Must!	Thanks and noted - see draft plan for car parking
PH7	NCC	The objective is supported.	Thanks
PH9	Member of public	Parking is key here. Can we have the whole parking situation reviewed here? More seats also around Wooler and have dropped kerbs looked at. All footpaths along South Road are so bad for mobility scooters.	Thanks and noted - see draft plan for Parking and see proposed Community Action to review footpaths
PH10	Member of public	A good town map, with on foot access clearly marked to all parts of Wooler, should be very visible and always available at the Cheviot Centre	Thanks and noted
PH11	Member of public	There's a possibility of a bridge across Wooler water.	Thanks and noted
SW Web 1	Landowner	Focus on computer speeds etc etc	Thanks and noted - see draft plan

SW Web3	Member of public	<p>I think we need a large visitors car park, clearly signposted with a large map of the town and walks in the area. Then the town centre/community centre/Doctors car parks would be available for use by people needing to use these facilities. Could the old mill on the A697 be utilised until any development is forthcoming. This would also be able to facilitate motor homes which appear to be increasing in great numbers. It may also encourage tourists travelling on the A697 to stop and visit our shops and tourist facilities on foot.</p>	Thanks and noted - see draft plan
SW Web4	Member of public	<p>There is also outstanding highway damage dating back over 12 months and the signs are not fit for purpose. Can't the Parish council encourage Highways and local businesses to try harder for the good of all. If you wish to view one of many highway issues visit the junction of the A697 and the Berwick road, that would encapsulate all that is wrong with the A697 in one 100 metre stretch. Many people who visit this area do so for the walking opportunities and rightly so. I don't know if members of the WNP group walk or not but the paths and signage are very poor. A good friend of mine visited and commented that he would never return for a walking holiday because of the overgrown and badly signed routes in and around Wooler.</p> <p>Why can't work be done on improving this valuable asset and perhaps the introduction of numbered clear paths of varying lengths and difficulties. It should be remembered that the younger generations know little of maps in this GPS age and I doubt many new to walking are confident with OS map reading.</p> <p>I have recently been to Derbyshire and used the Monsal Trail. This is a traffic free route for walkers cyclists horseriders and wheelchair users. Most of it appears to be a disused railway track. There are entrance points all along it and cafes, bike hire etc. It was busy and been used by all ages on bikes and walking. The cafes were also very busy. We have a disused railway which would be ideal if funding and planning could be found. People these days look for things to do this would bring people to the area for a purpose and offer extra employment opportunities. I am sure if the route was long</p>	Thanks and noted - see draft plan and Community Action on reviewing footpath routes

		<p>enough it would benefit all communities along its route and would entice people of all ages including disabled to come to the area. This would also be a brilliant facility for local people to use young and old cyclist walkers and horse riders. A safe leisure route for all. It appears to work very well in Derbyshire</p>	
SW Web5	Member of public	<p>Have you considered shared use paths for cycling as well as walking? Where are these opportunities? Just imagine if a route based along the old railway line from Alnwick to Cornhill could be developed as a shared use path for walkers, cyclists and horses. The benefit to the economy through increased visitors as well as health and well-being benefits would be enormous! Now that would be a fantastic and imaginative addition to our Neighbourhood Plan that our community could really get excited about!</p>	<p>Thanks and noted. There are a number of Community Actions to address this e.g. to review and extend footpaths and bike paths in the parish and beyond</p>
SW5	Member of public	<p>All of the above are good ideas</p>	<p>Thanks</p>
SW6	Member of public	<p>Buses are good. Buses are good but we have lost some of these. Could there be a scheme whereby non-drivers could pair up with drivers for transport to Berwick and Alnwick.</p> <p>Parking on Ramsey's Lane already causes problems: there have been incidents when emergency vehicles could not get access because of delivery/commercial vehicles.</p> <p>The double yellow lines in the High Street are frequently not observed. This can be dangerous as it limits visibility for drivers coming out of Ramsey's Lane</p>	<p>Thanks and noted</p>