

Written responses to Blyth Pre-Submission Draft Plan and proposed response (DRAFT 29 January 2025)

Responses received from:

- One consultation body: Northumberland County Council.
- Two other organisations/ landowners/ bodies: Blyth Golf Club, Miller Homes
- Seven residents of Blyth and two former residents – of which seven submitted comments via the online form, one on the response form and one by letter/ email.

Consultee	Comment	Response/ proposed change
General		
Northumberland County Council	Thank you for consulting the County Council on the Pre-Submission Draft Blyth Neighbourhood Plan. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Town Council and its Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on reaching this stage in plan preparation and for creating a well-considered draft plan for the future of Blyth Parish.	Support welcomed and comments noted; no amendments required.
Sandra Hardwick (resident)	<p>It is depressingly unambitious. It is really just the old BVBC Local Plan regurgitated and the Energising Blyth objectives plagiarised. How about being more imaginative? Try saying that there should be tourism sites made available south of South Newsham Road for camping. People who holiday by rail could come to Blyth and stay in "eco-pods" and the local farm could offer horse rides through the fields, the surf school, park run & cold water swimmers and the person who has the sauna in the dunes could expand their offer - this is a bit of joined up thinking that your plan lacks.</p> <p>If the green belt gets built on so what? are people in Blyth bothered about this or is it just the planners? I somehow think the folk of Blyth don't sit at home worrying about the green belt. They want something to be proud of and for people from outside the town to stop saying negatives comments about Blyth.</p>	<p>Comments noted. Amend section 3 to explain that it is the intention for there to be overlap between the vision and objectives of the neighbourhood plan and Energising Blyth.</p> <p>The vision and objectives highlight the importance of tourism development. The existing policies within the local plan would support the principle of the types of development described.</p> <p>Supporting inappropriate development in the Green Belt would be contrary to national planning policy. The plan would therefore not meet the legal requirements so would not pass examination.</p>

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	<p>How about putting land aside for docking stations for electric bikes - these could be free for the first 15mins to get to/from the new stations and worked from a phone App with geo-navigation controls that only allows them to run on cycle paths at max 15 mph. I've been to several European cities where this works.</p> <p><i>*warning controversial comment*</i> How about introducing a levy on the businesses at the Port of Blyth and sites north of the river like they have in tourist areas? For years we've been the poor relation putting up with the noise, light, traffic and dust pollution. The wall and fence that separates the residents from the port is like a barrier between the haves and the have nots. The port is doing really well and is about to do even better. There will be an abundance of riches from the offshore wind industry over the next few years the people of Blyth deserve a large slice of this. The levy could be used to build a road from Cowpen Road (at the cemetery) northwards across the river to connect to the proposed data centre. This is not a bridge as such, it could be just a simple prefabricated deck and column raised road like they have in the Netherlands and Florida to cross low level areas of water.</p> <p>If your plan had anything like these I'd be enthusiastic about it. I've provided these ideas free of charge I hope you haven't paid Joanne Garrick a lot of money to take so long and produce so little.</p>	<p>Installation of electric charging points would not normally require planning permission. Would this be something that you would want to include as a community action?</p> <p>The Town Council does not have the powers to introduce such a charge. Community Infrastructure Levy is something that Northumberland County Council could consider introducing but would need to be subject to viability testing.</p> <p>The purpose of a neighbourhood plan is to define planning policies and allocations to guide new development (which requires planning permission) within an area. It does not need to repeat policies already contained within the Northumberland Local Plan. Those policies within the draft neighbourhood plan are considered important to add local detail.</p>
Moirá Monaghan (resident)	Blyth needs to be physically cleaned and maintained properly before further change and the residents need to be listened to properly to much is happening without residents being listened to properly also to much car mechanic businesses in residential areas that should not be allowed very unsafe and unhealthy also impractical.	Comments noted; no amendments required. The purpose of a neighbourhood plan is to define planning policies and allocations to guide new development (which requires planning permission). Cleaning and maintenance would be

Consultee	Comment	Response/ proposed change
		unlikely to require planning permission. Policies cannot be applied retrospectively to development which has already been approved. Issues such as unsafe and unhealthy business operations are controlled through other legislation (such as health and safety).
Paul Taylor (resident)	No more houses for Blyth. We've had more than our share!	Comments noted; no amendments required. The neighbourhood plan is not proposing new residential development.
Anonymous resident - NE24 2AA	A very well thought and designed plan.	Support welcomed and comments noted; no amendments required.
Miller Homes (Lichfields)	<p>Our client has a land interest north of Laverock Hall Road, and is considering options to sustainably develop the site for housing. The site is located north of the successful Miller Homes Portland Wynd development. It measures 27.6 hectares (ha) and is mostly in agricultural use, save for the north east corner which is marshy scrub and grassland. It is entirely within Flood Zone 1, categorised by the Environment Agency as having the lowest risk of flooding, although there are pockets of surface water flood risk across the site. Powerlines run in a north west to south east direction across the site which falls in a south-west to the north-east direction.</p> <p>Overall, we suggest preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan is paused to allow Northumberland County Council to progress with its own Local Plan and ensure the two documents align. The recent publication of the NPPF (December 2024) results in the need for the County Council to commence a review within the next two years and identify additional housing development opportunities to accommodate the increase in housing required as part of the new Standard Method. For context, the new Standard Method for calculating housing needs requires Northumberland to increase its annual housing delivery to 1,649 per annum (increased from the Local Plan figure of 885 pa and average delivery over the last 3 years of 1,565).</p>	<p>Comments noted; no amendments required. As is explained within the draft neighbourhood plan, it is not proposed to include housing allocations. It is appropriate for neighbourhood planning bodies to determine the scope of their plan – it does not need to include housing policies or allocations.</p> <p>The Town Council is aware of the publication of the new Standard Method for calculating housing needs and the increase in housing figures for Northumberland as a whole. The proposed spatial approach to the distribution of housing across the county is a strategic matter and not one to be dealt with through a neighbourhood plan.</p> <p>Given the process of preparing a revised Northumberland Local Plan could take a number of years, it is not considered appropriate to pause the preparation of the neighbourhood plan,</p>

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	<p>As a highly sustainable Main Town in South East Northumberland, Blyth will need to accommodate a proportion of that growth. Consequently, if the strategy of the Neighbourhood Plan is not aligned with a new Northumberland County Local Plan, there is a risk that the Neighbourhood Plan is afforded a reduced weight in the determination of planning applications.</p> <p><u>Summary:</u> Our client broadly supports the overarching aims of the Neighbourhood Plan however considers that their land interest, north of Laverock Hall Road should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • included as a housing designation within the Plan and shown on the Policies Map; and • that the Settlement Boundary should be revised to include our client's land. <p>Doing so would ensure that the Plan is flexible enough to provide sustainable development over the Plan period. Our client's site represents the most logical location to be developed for residential development in the plan period and is deliverable by a reputable housebuilder with a proven track record of delivering high quality housing in Blyth. An allocation for residential development would ensure that market and affordable housing, and housing for older people is delivered to meet local needs.</p> <p>We trust that this representation will inform revisions to the Neighbourhood Plan. We would be happy to meet with the Neighbourhood Plan team to discuss this letter and the opportunity offered by Miller Homes.</p>	<p>especially as it does not include policies for housing. If, following the adoption of a revised local plan it is considered necessary/beneficial to revise the neighbourhood plan, this will be considered by the Town Council at the appropriate point.</p>
Janice Simpson (former resident)	<p>I think that the principles supporting this document and the neighbourhood plan are excellent, and represent the town of Blyth, its visitors, and the voices of its local residents very well. My comments above are really just 'nit-picking'! You may wonder why I am participating in this consultation when I live in London, but I grew up in Blyth and still consider it to be my home town, which I have continued to visit regularly over the years. I am also considering moving</p>	<p>Support welcomed and comments noted; no amendments required.</p>

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	back to Blyth, in order to be closer to friends and family that still live there. I would like nothing more than to see Blyth restored to the thriving town that it used to be when I was growing up. I am therefore happy to contribute in any way to current and future plans for the town, and I will be watching the developments and improvements taking place there with great interest. Thank you.	
Section 2 – Background to Blyth		
Policy/ paragraph	Paragraph 2.26 – key issues	
Northumberland County Council	Remove the word ' for ' in the second bullet point	Amend as suggested.
Sandra Hardwick (resident)	I don't think retail is important as it is a declining service across the UK. I do think community facilities are important but in the past two years Blyth TC haven't even tried to prevent the loss of these (the trees in the market square and the edge of Ridley Park, the loss of the plant nursery at the park - these all happened with no opposition). This document you've produced is just words, you don't follow through with decisions or enforcement.	Comments noted; no amendments required. Feedback from early engagement highlighted the importance of the town centre and retail facilities. Any comments on the trees/nursery? Were these applications? Once the plan has been made by Northumberland County Council the policies and allocations within it will be used by the county council to inform decisions on planning applications. Planning law requires that planning decisions are made in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Neighbourhood plans therefore have a very important role in the planning system.
Sandra Hardwick (resident)	Increase town centre footfall - yes but how will you do this if you continue to allow people with mental health problems and other antisocial issues to be rehoused in the town? The Changing Lives charity at Quay Road did a lot of harm yet they moved into that building in 2014 without a change of use planning application. The change of use (and intensification of) at the Blyth Star Enterprises building near the quayside from workshops to housing for	Comments noted; no amendments required. Policy 1 requires that main town centre uses are located within the town centre. If planning permission was required for the changes of use referred to this is the responsibility of Northumberland County Council as the local

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	schizophrenics. This document you've produced is just words, you don't follow through with decisions or enforcement.	planning authority. The neighbourhood plan includes the policies against which relevant planning applications will be assessed in the future.
Sandra Hardwick (resident)	Improve connectivity - definitely. Living in Blyth is like living on an island with no boat. Try looking at Newcastle how they've connected the Quayside with Haymarket.	Comments noted; no amendments required.
Sandra Hardwick (resident)	The importance of Blyth's heritage - I agree but this document you've produced is just words, you don't follow through with decisions or enforcement. For example 78 Middleton Street is highlighted as a significant building in the conservation area yet the recent owners made several changes to this building but only applied for permission for one of them. No enforcement action taken. Why do you bother having rules if people are allowed to ignore them?	Comments noted; no amendments required. Blyth Town Council is not the local planning authority, this is Northumberland County Council – it is for the local planning authority to determine if enforcement action is required. The purpose of the neighbourhood plan is to define locally specific policies against which planning applications are determined.
Sandra Hardwick (resident)	I don't like the phrase "increasing numbers of houses in multiple occupation". This implies that we have to accept this.	Comments noted; amend to ensure clarity.
Sandra Hardwick (resident)	Protecting green spaces - I agree with this in housing areas but for years successive planners have protected the "green belt" south of south Newsham Road with vigour. Why? All of a sudden there's a large road bridge and plans to build a dual carriageway. Yet, when someone requested reopening the caravan site there was huge opposition. Blyth can't afford the luxury of a "green belt". Tourism can provide community facilities and the south side of the town is the place for these.	Comments noted; no amendments required. Green Belt has been established in planning law since the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act – in order to restrict urban growth. One of the main functions of the Green Belt in Northumberland is to prevent the unrestricted sprawl of the Tyne and Wear conurbation. National policy requires that once Green Belt has been established boundaries should only be altered where exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated. The extent of the Green Belt in Northumberland was reviewed as part of the preparation of the Northumberland Local Plan. The review

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		<p>considered the land to the south of South Newsham Road. The conclusion was that the area provided a high contribution to the purposes of the Green Belt and development in this area would increase the risk of merger between Blyth, New Hartley and Seaton Sluice.</p> <p>National planning policy is clear that planning applications for inappropriate development in the Green Belt are required to demonstrate very special circumstances and these will not exist unless the potential harm to the Green Belt is clearly outweighed by other considerations.</p>
Sandra Hardwick (resident)	Again, just words, "investment in infrastructure" when are you going to make a serious attempt to build the relief roads? why are you protecting allotments when they are in the way of linking Princess Louise Road to Ogle Drive? why are Blyth's town centre roads still flooding? We pay one of the highest council taxes in the UK yet have atrocious infrastructure.	Comments noted; no amendments required. The relief road proposals are not a responsibility of the Town Council. Allotments have been identified by the local community as important green spaces. Policies within the neighbourhood plan can only relate to proposals that require planning permission. The Northumberland Local Plan contained detailed policies regarding development and flood risk – there is no need to repeat these within the neighbourhood plan.
Moira Monaghan (resident)	The Market place has been destroyed the buildings being erected is of no use to the residents of Blyth .The shopping mall has been destroyed there is no decent shopping in Blyth now.	Comments noted; no amendments required. Policies within the neighbourhood plan can only relate to proposals that require planning permission. The plan includes a policy to support retain development within the town centre and protect/enhance its role.

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Paul Taylor (resident)	I agree with all except I think that not one more new house should be built in the Blyth area. Our roads are becoming very congested and it is getting more and more difficult to get in and out of Blyth.	Support welcomed and comments noted; no amendments required. The plan does not include proposals for new housing development.
Anonymous resident - NE24 2AA	Support the key issues	Support welcomed; no amendments required.
Miller Homes (Lichfields)	The key issues for the Neighbourhood Plan to address are all supported by our client.	Support welcomed and comments noted; no amendments required.
Janice Simpson (former resident)	<p>1) I would have liked to see the issue of a lack of adequate and accessible health services in the town included in this list (e.g. access to GPs, dental services, community diagnostic centres, outreach and outpatients services). The Keel Row site would have been ideal for the development of a CDC and/or an outreach/outpatient centre, like the one they have in the Cramlington Shopping Centre.</p> <p>2) I would also have liked to see the public health issue of seagulls inhabiting and spoiling the town centre, which is an immediate issue, included in this list, along with any other public health issues that are a current problem for the town.</p> <p>3) Another key issue is that of crime and ASB, so you may want to mention that here too (as it is elsewhere in the document).</p>	Do you want to add to the list? Health services could be covered by community facilities and infrastructure. Seagulls are not relevant to planning policies – would this be an important issue to include as a community action? Do you want to include ASB?
Michael Priaulx (former resident)	Support the key issues	Support welcomed; no amendments required.
Mrs Stoneman (resident)	Support the key issues	Support welcomed; no amendments required.
Gabriel Davies (resident)	Support the key issues	Support welcomed; no amendments required.

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Section 3 – Vision and objectives		
Policy/ paragraph	Vision and objectives	
Sandra Hardwick (resident)	The vision is not very ambitious. All of these things are already predicted to happen. I can't believe Joanne Garrick has spent so much time on this NP and that's what the vision is. The objectives are just lifted straight from the Blyth Town Board objectives. Is this not just plagiarism?	Comments noted. Amend section 3 to explain that it is the intention for there to be overlap between the vision and objectives of the neighbourhood plan and Energising Blyth.
Moira Monaghan (resident)	There is no need for these monstrosity buildings in centre of town they are certainly of no use to local residents or the tourists you claim to want to attract.	Comments noted; no amendments required. The plan proposes policies that will be used against to assess new development proposals, it cannot be applied retrospectively to proposals with permission.
Paul Taylor (resident)	I agree as long as welcoming isnt code for building houses for migrants from other areas.	Support welcomed and comments noted; no amendments required. The plan does not include proposals for new housing development.
Anonymous resident - NE24 2AA	Agree with the vision and objectives	Support welcomed; no amendments required.
Miller Homes (Lichfields)	<p>Whilst our client supports the fourth objective to ensure “access to the right kind of affordable housing and meeting the housing needs of the ageing population”, our client considers it vital that the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to ensure access to all types of housing, including market and family housing. This will ensure that balanced and mixed communities are maintained and reflects the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (“NPPF”) to meet the needs of all groups in the community, including those who require affordable housing; families with children; and older people (NPPF paragraph 63).</p> <p>Likewise, our client supports the key Objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan however considers that, to effectively grow the economy as set out in Objective 1, a range of new homes need to be provided. This would better</p>	Support welcomed and comments noted; no amendments required. As is explained within the draft neighbourhood plan, it is not proposed to include housing policies or allocations. The Town Council considered that the neighbourhood plan could not add further detail to the Northumberland Local Plan housing policies .

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	attract the working age population to live and stay in the area; and in turn further attract investment and spend in the area.	
Janice Simpson (former resident)	By 'key services and facilities' in the vision, I'm assuming this includes retail opportunities.	Comments noted; no amendments required. Yes, this would include retail development.
Michael Priaux (former resident)	Support the vision and objectives.	Support welcomed; no amendments required.
Mrs Stoneman (resident)	Support the vision and objectives.	Support welcomed; no amendments required.
Gabriel Davies (resident)	Support the vision and objectives.	Support welcomed; no amendments required.
Section 4 – A growing and vibrant town		
Policy/ paragraph	Paragraph 4.4	
Miller Homes (Lichfields)	<p>Our client fully supports the identification of Blyth as a Main Town in the Northumberland Local Plan (“NLP”), being a main focus for employment, housing, retail and service development. However, our client does not support the Settlement Boundary for Blyth and requests that the Neighbourhood Plan uses this opportunity to revise the Settlement Boundary for Blyth.</p> <p>This is because, whilst the NLP was adopted in March 2022, it is based on data that is significantly older. For example, the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (“SHMA”) was updated in 2018 but based on the first publication SHMA in 2015. Furthermore, there have been a number of significant developments since the NLP was adopted. This includes the North of Tyne Devolution Deal, the completion of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, the opening of the Northumberland Line and the Government’s updated Standard Method for calculating housing need. These changes mean that a full review of the NLP and a change in the strategy for housing growth in South East Northumberland is needed. Importantly, the proposed figure for</p>	Comments noted; no amendments required. The Town Council is aware of the evidence base which informed the Northumberland Local Plan and the changes since this date, particularly the potential implications of the standard method for calculating housing numbers. The Town Council considers that any changes to the strategic distribution of housing across Northumberland to be a matter for the review of the Northumberland Local Plan. Until the outcome of work on overall housing numbers and the strategic distribution, it would be premature to consider amendments to the settlement boundary.

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	<p>calculating the Standard Method for housing would increase from 549 to 1,649 in Northumberland, meaning that significantly more housing development is needed.</p> <p>Our client's site to the north of Laverock Hall Road is well connected to existing services and facilities including primary and secondary schools; sports and leisure provision; bus, rail and cycle links; and employment opportunities. It is also around one mile north of the South Newsham Rail Station serving the recently reopened Northumberland Line.</p> <p>Revising the Settlement Boundary to include our client's site would ensure that additional housing could be delivered in a sustainable location, to include affordable housing and housing suitable for older people and families, whilst ensuring a robust boundary to the settlement of Blyth. This is particularly important as the Settlement Boundaries set out in the NLP were carried forward from old Local Plans and paragraph 4.44 of the NLP sets out that the boundaries for all Main Towns have been defined to enable them to accommodate their housing requirements. When the housing requirement increases, which the new Standard Method makes inevitable, the settlement boundary will therefore clearly no longer be fit for purpose.</p> <p>The existing tree belt to the west of our client's site, the golf course to the north and existing housing to the south all provide robust and defensible boundaries. For reference, our client considers around 600 new homes could be built on their land, ranging from 2-bed to 5-bed properties. This would include 10-15% affordable housing and could include bungalows and homes to meet wheelchair user requirements, or that could be adapted to meet such requirements.</p>	
Policy/ paragraph	Paragraph 4.10	
Northumberland County Council	Housing numbers should be updated to reflect the position at end March 2024 - 1,717 net additional completions 2016-24; plus 292 dwellings outstanding to be built on permitted sites; while other as yet unpermitted site allocations in the NLP have scope to provide around 80 further dwellings.	Comments noted, amend as suggested.

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Miller Homes (Lichfields)	<p>Whilst the NP recognises that housing delivery and extant planning permissions exceed the identified housing number set out in the NLP for Blyth, from Miller Homes' experience of delivering the scheme at Portland Wynd, there is significant demand for new affordable and family housing in Blyth. Furthermore, the new Standard Method will result in an increase in the housing requirement for Northumberland meaning that additional sites will need to be allocated for housing delivery.</p> <p>The Blyth NP provides the ideal opportunity to allocate land that is sustainable to accommodate the increase in housing required by the revised SM and the forthcoming review of the NLP. Doing so now would provide certainty for the residents of Blyth about the scale and location of new housing in the area. It is considered that our client's land interest north of Laverock Hall Road provides a sustainable and available site to do this, with a developer with a proven track record of delivering high quality housing in the locality.</p> <p>This also provides an opportunity to directly respond to paragraph 17 of the Blyth Neighbourhood Plan Housing Needs Assessment ("BHNA") which states that "the expected level of [affordable housing] delivery does not meet the quantity of demand identified for affordable home ownership products in Blyth. It is recommended that the policy requirement is met wherever possible, and that further avenues for delivering greater quantities of Affordable Housing are explored if desired by the Town Council." The allocation of our client's site for housing, to include market and affordable housing, would deliver more affordable housing in Blyth and it would be delivered to ensure that every phase could come forward with an agreed proportion of affordable housing.</p> <p>The delivery of a range of house sizes by our client would also reflect the findings of the BHNA which sets out at paragraph 25 that "In order to reach the recommended mix it is suggested that future housing delivery is focussed on larger dwellings in order to more closely align the mix with patterns across wider Northumberland." Whilst the BHNA goes on to say that the Town</p>	<p>Comments noted; no amendments required. As explained above, the Town Council considers that any changes to the strategic distribution of housing across Northumberland to be a matter for the review of the Northumberland Local Plan. Until the outcome of work on overall housing numbers and the strategic distribution, it would be premature to consider amendments to the settlement boundary. With regard to the delivery of affordable housing, as explained within the draft neighbourhood plan (4.4) the Northumberland Local Plan includes policies that would support the delivery of affordable housing outside the settlement boundary where specific criteria are met.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Response/ proposed change
	Council may wish to decrease the proportion of larger sized homes, our client is committed to providing a mix of house sizes ranging from 2-bed to 5-bed properties.	
Policy/ paragraph	Paragraph 4.11	
Northumberland County Council	Bullet points 5 & 8 - In the 5th and 8th bullet points, First Homes should have capital initial letters	Comments noted, amend as suggested.
Northumberland County Council	Bullet point 7 – mix of affordable housing of 33% rented and 67% ownership is only for low value areas. (Although the majority of Blyth is in a low value area, some is medium).	Comments noted, amend as suggested.
Northumberland County Council	Bullet point 10 – All match HNA, but 37% market sheltered housing is not included from HNA (para 234 in HNA).	Comments noted, amend as suggested.
Policy/ paragraph	Paragraph 4.22	
Northumberland County Council	Typo for ‘and’	Comments noted, amend as suggested.
Policy/ paragraph	Policy 1: Retail development	
Northumberland County Council	Criterion 2 – There may be some contradiction with the use of ‘support’ in this criterion when read against Criterion 3. Suggest 2 reads: <i>The following identified retail parks are defined on the policies map: ... R1, R2 etc.</i> Then Criterion 3 can deal with the policy approach.	Comments noted, amend as suggested.
Northumberland County Council	Criterion 3 – Suggest adding ‘ <i>proportionate additional floorspace</i> ’. Also, is additional floorspace meant to include extensions to existing units or the conversion of ancillary space to active retail; or only new units?	Comments noted, amend as suggested and clarify that additional floorspace would include extensions to existing units.
Northumberland County Council	Smaller retail centres: Criterion 4 – SR4. The Links - The site identified on the policies map as ‘The Links’ is large and extends beyond the developed area. No reason is given for this. We have concerns about how this sits with criterion 5 of the same policy, particularly in terms of ‘protecting the vitality and viability’ of the town centre. We suggest re-drawing the boundary to more closely align with what currently exists on the site.	The proposed boundary extended to include the area with planning application (23/04456/OUT) for hotel, pub/restaurant and retail/commercial pods – JG to discuss with NCC

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Sandra Hardwick (resident)	You're closing the door after the horse has bolted. It's a bit embarrassing to be writing about protecting town centre retail exactly when the shopping centre is being demolished and not due to be replaced with retail.	Comments noted; no amendments required. The neighbourhood plan can only include policies for future development. The purpose of policy 1 is to protect and enhance the vitality and viability of the town centre.
Moira Monaghan (resident)	Whats the point the retail has been destroyed in Blyth.	Comments noted; no amendments required. The neighbourhood plan can only include policies for future development. The purpose of policy 1 is to protect and enhance the vitality and viability of the town centre.
Anonymous resident - NE24 2AA	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Janice Simpson (former resident)	Support assuming that Plessey Road in Newsham also covers the Co-op and smaller shops on Newcastle Road, Newsham.	Support welcomed and comments noted; no amendments required. The allocation does include the Co-op and smaller shops.
Michael Priaulx (former resident)	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Mrs Stoneman (resident)	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Gabriel Davies (resident)	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Section 5 – A distinctive town		
Policy/ paragraph	Policy 2: Bondicar Terrace Conservation Area	
Northumberland County Council	Criterion 1(d) - the improvement of footpaths may be more suitable as a community action.	Comments noted, amend to refer to opportunities to improve footpaths etc as part of relevant development proposals. Agree it could be difficult to do this, so could include a community action about working with

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		NCC to identify opportunities to improve the quality of footpaths etc in the conservation area. Do you want to include this as a community action
Northumberland County Council	Criterion 1(g) - the loss of front gardens for off-street parking may be permitted development, subject to highways, but the word 'resist' may make this criterion acceptable anyway.	Comments noted, amend to refer to where planning permission is required.
Northumberland County Council	Criterion 1(h) - the painting or rendering of stone and brickwork would require permission in a Conservation Area; therefore 'resisting' could be stronger.	Comments noted, amend to strengthen.
Northumberland County Council	NDHAs - included in the NDHA background paper and seem to satisfy the criteria.	Comments noted; no amendments required.
Northumberland County Council	Criterion 2 – We would prefer to see all of the NDHAs dealt with under Policy 5. A single list provides clarity and ensures the application of criteria set out in Policy 5.	Comments noted, amend as suggested.
Sandra Hardwick (resident)	There's no point writing all these words and drawing up maps because no-one does any enforcement. See my comment above about 78 Middleton Street.	Comments noted; no amendments required. Enforcement matters are the responsibility of Northumberland County Council. If a development has taken place without the required planning permission, this can be reported to the County Council who will investigate the alleged breach in accordance with the enforcement policy.
Moira Monaghan (resident)	Whats the point the powers that be are just destroying the town.	Comments noted; no amendments required. The policy would be used to consider future development proposals in the conservation area.
Anonymous resident - NE24 2AA	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required.

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Janice Simpson (former resident)	I don't really know this area well enough to comment on the specifics e.g. the 11 non-designated heritage assets within the area, but I agree with the Policy in principal.	Support welcomed and comments noted; no amendments required.
Michael Priaulx (former resident)	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Mrs Stoneman (resident)	Support the draft policy. I live on Bondicar Terrace – please enhance, repair and renovate heritage buildings in area as residents on our top block all take great care of their homes and gardens. We are very worried about what YMCA intend to do with their buildings as no tenants at the moment and garden and exterior looks very shabby. Also we need Victorian type litter bins and plenty of them and less ugly road signs.	Support welcomed and comments noted. The policy would be used to consider future development proposals in the conservation area rather than requiring owners to undertake works to their properties. Do you want to say anything re the YMCA and comments re litter bins and road signs?
Gabriel Davies (resident)	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Policy/ paragraph	Policy 3: Blyth Central Conservation Area	
Northumberland County Council	This policy is more generic than Policies 2 and 4, with criterion (a), (b) and (d) of the policy covered in Local Plan Policy ENV9 (1)(c) and (2). However, the criteria are probably more applicable to the regeneration/ town centre redevelopment schemes and could remain appropriate.	Comments noted, amend to add more local detail.
Northumberland County Council	Criterion 1(d) - Improvement of public spaces covered in Local Plan policy TCS 5(3).	Comments noted; no amendments required as public spaces are important to the character of the conservation area it is considered appropriate to retain this within the policy.
Northumberland County Council	NDHAs - included in the NDHA background paper and seem to satisfy the criteria.	Comments noted; no amendments required.
Northumberland County Council	Criterion 2 – As previously stated.	Comments noted, amend to include all NDHA in one policy.

Consultee	Comment	Response/ proposed change
Sandra Hardwick (resident)	Again, this is embarrassing. At this very moment in Blyth there's a consultation for the new education building in this conservation area. It claims to respect the architecture of the CA yet it is going to be completely at odds with it and I bet it gets approval. Furthermore the visuals show it being built on the corner of Regent St and Waterloo Road where there are currently two historic buildings. What is the point of drawing up these policies - they'll just be ignored. You can't even get the person who owns the two ridiculous buildings in Carlton Street to remove all the rubbish he continues to add to them!	Comments noted; no amendments required. The policy, once adopted, will be used by Northumberland County Council to assess planning applications within the conservation area against.
Moira Monaghan (resident)	The so called new buildings seek to destroy and overshadow traditional well built buildings and areas	Comments noted; no amendments required. The policy cannot apply retrospectively the planning permissions that have approval.
Anonymous resident - NE24 2AA	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Janice Simpson (former resident)	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Michael Priaulx (former resident)	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Mrs Stoneman (resident)	Support the draft policy. The Victorian element of the town needs to be enhanced (rather than modern) as wealthy merchants/sea captains etc built these old buildings to a high standard and we need to preserve them as part of the towns history for future generations. They were proud of our town in the old days.	Support welcomed and comments noted; no amendments required.
Gabriel Davies (resident)	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Policy/ paragraph	Policy 4: Blyth Heritage Conservation Area	
Northumberland County Council	Criterion 1(b) – Although the word ‘consider’ is used, there needs to be much more detailed appraisal of views, and what type of development is resisted to protect them.	Comments noted, amend to strengthen.

Consultee	Comment	Response/ proposed change
Northumberland County Council	Instead, the term 'streetscape' is preferred to 'views'. The criterion describes views along roads, so perhaps streetscape is meant anyway. Streetscape is more practical in responding to planning applications than views.	Comments noted, amend as suggested.
Northumberland County Council	Should the Lighthouse be included in the scope of this policy?	Comments noted, amend to include.
Northumberland County Council	NDHAs - included in the NDHA background paper and seem to satisfy the criteria.	Comments noted; no amendments required
Northumberland County Council	Criterion 2 – As previously stated.	Comments noted, amend to include all NDHA in one policy.
Sandra Hardwick (resident)	I find this laughable. You have allowed the change of use of the Blyth Star Enterprises building and then didn't oppose an extension to it that was not in keeping with the architecture. In 2007 the enormous wind turbine was approved just across the river yet people living in Bath Terrace aren't allowed to install pvc double glazing! If you really want to preserve the lovely buildings on Bridge Street you would propose to close this road to traffic just like you did in Bath Terrace. It's ridiculous that lorries and buses are thundering past these assets.	Comments noted; no amendments required. The Town Council is not responsible for the determination of planning applications or road closures, these are the responsibility of Northumberland County Council.
Moira Monaghan (resident)	The traditional buildings have purposely been run down/neglected/	Comments noted; no amendments required. The policy would be used to consider future development proposals in the conservation area.
Anonymous resident - NE24 2AA	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Janice Simpson (former resident)	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Michael Priaulx (former resident)	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required

Consultee	Comment	Response/ proposed change
Mrs Stoneman (resident)	Support the draft policy. The Quay and surrounding area, the Park, Battery and Beach area all need to be included. They are important areas for several reasons – open air, historical value, gathering points for residents.	Support welcomed and comments noted; no amendments required. It is not possible to change the boundary of the conservation area through the neighbourhood plan. This would be the responsibility of Northumberland County Council. The neighbourhood plan does however propose NDHA which include those on the Quay and Battery. The park is proposed as a local green space.
Gabriel Davies (resident)	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Policy/ paragraph	Policy 5: Non-designated heritage assets outside the conservation areas	
Northumberland County Council	Criterion 1 – Would suggest rewording this. The preservation and enhancement of NDHAs is supported, rather than all development proposals (which will have other planning considerations).	Comments noted, amend as suggested.
Northumberland County Council	Criterion 2 - Other NDHAs are included in Conservation Area policies. As above, all NDHAs should be included in this single policy, but as the list is long perhaps the list could be in an Appendix (and the Policies Map).	Comments noted, amend as suggested.
Northumberland County Council	Criteria 3-6 - Whilst these criteria may comply with the NPPF/ Local Plan, as both those documents have a plethora of policies on heritage assets, and repetition only furthers the possibility of alternative interpretation, challenge and appeals; retaining Criterion 1 and 2 only, with reference to national policy and the development framework, should suffice.	Comments noted, amend as suggested.
Sandra Hardwick (resident)	Bedlington Viaduct isn't in Blyth. Fort House no longer exists! Old Coop on Croft Road conversion has not been done sympathetically why preserve it now? Who drew this list up? and who proof read it? This is just the old Blyth Valley Local Plan regurgitated - I really hope you haven't paid someone a lot of money to write it.	Comments noted; no amendments required. Part of the viaduct is in Blyth Parish. Fort House does exist. Old Cooperative on Croft road has been proposed as a result of its age, aesthetic value and historical association. See NDHA paper

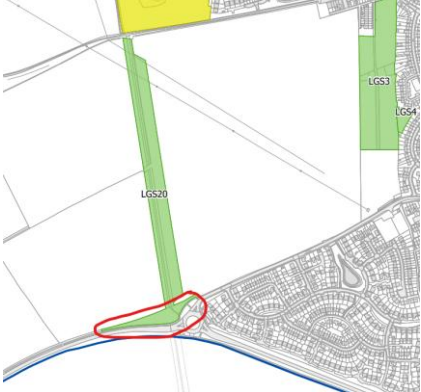
Consultee	Comment	Response/ proposed change
		for further details of reasons for proposed designations.
Moira Monaghan (resident)	The new buildings being erected are not fit for purpose.	Comments noted; no amendments required. The policies within the plan would be used to assess future development proposals against.
Anonymous resident - NE24 2AA	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Janice Simpson (former resident)	Support the draft policy. There are 31 assets on this list, rather than 30 - sorry to be so pedantic!	Support welcomed and comments noted; amend to reflect correct number of assets.
Michael Priaulx (former resident)	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Mrs Stoneman (resident)	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Gabriel Davies (resident)	<p>Support the draft policy. The beach band stand and surrounding beach area, needs improving for locals and tourists alike. Access to beach is limited and precarious. Beach needs sand replenishment and serious investment in sand dune restoration due to erosion. Year on year there has been nothing done to support the sand dunes stability. Without input the promenade is at risk of erosion. The Promenade has ridiculous red and white plastic barriers (at huge cost of rental!?) permanent solutions must be sought, if the promenade needs solar night lights, safety rails, then make that investment!</p> <p>Lastly the memorial benches look ridiculous, they are ill placed, full of plastic flowers, unpleasant eye sores, that can at times not even be sat on, due to the amount of plastic flowers, wreaths, photos, frames that adorn them. It is like taking a grim stroll along a graveyard. As it stands now, it is not a nice place to sit and watch the beach, or eat your chips. Likewise the bins are unsightly and stink. Jet ski access without care to other water users is a constant hazard, and</p>	Comments? Not relevant to planning policies

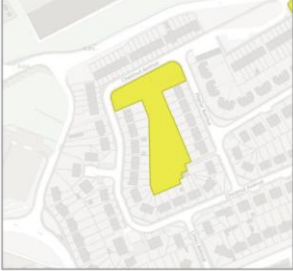

Consultee	Comment	Response/ proposed change
	no lifeguards is a disaster waiting to happen. Why not have more WARM solar showers and a swim friendly beach.	
Policy/ paragraph	Paragraph 5.23	
Michael Priaulx (former resident)	<p>In summary, the Natural Environment section (paragraph 5.23) is very welcome, but please consider building-dependent wildlife such as red-listed bird species which inhabit buildings in Blyth. Reference is made to the Northumberland Local Plan but this was adopted on 31/03/22 so is quite out-of-date on this issue with the NPPF updated and the relevant BS 42021 issued since this date.</p> <p>Therefore, please add: Swift bricks are a universal nest brick for small bird species and should be installed in new developments including extensions, in accordance with best practice guidance such as BS 42021 or CIEEM. Artificial nest cups for house martins may be proposed instead of swift bricks where recommended by an ecologist.</p> <p>Also please add: Existing nest sites for building-dependent species such as swifts and house martins should be protected, as these endangered red-listed species which are present but declining in Blyth return annually to traditional nest sites. Mitigation should be provided if these nest sites cannot be protected.</p> <p>In more detail for supporting evidence, the reason for this is that nest sites in buildings and bird boxes/ bricks and other species features are excluded from the DEFRA Biodiversity Net Gain metric, so require their own clear policy.</p> <p>The Government's response in March 2023 to the 2022 BNG consultation stated that: "We plan to keep species features, like bat and bird boxes, outside the scope of the biodiversity metric... [and] allow local planning authorities to consider what conditions in relation to those features may be appropriate" (page 27, https://consult.defra.gov.uk/defra-net-gain-consultation-team/technicalconsultation_biodiversitymetric/).</p>	Thoughts? I don't think it would be appropriate to include this within the plan – the NLP policies refer to development maximising opportunities to incorporate biodiversity through built in features (policy ENV2) minimising impact on biodiversity (policy QOP1) etc

Consultee	Comment	Response/ proposed change
	<p>NPPF December 2024 Paragraph 187 (d) (page 54) states: "planning policies should... incorporate features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts".</p> <p>Swift bricks are the only type of bird box specifically mentioned as valuable to wildlife in national planning guidance, along with bat boxes and hedgehog highways (NPPG Natural Environment 2019 paragraph 023). The National Model Design Code Part 2 Guidance Notes (2021) also recommends bird bricks (Integrating Habitats section on page 25, and Creating Habitats section on page 26).</p> <p>Swift bricks are considered a universal nest brick suitable for a wide range of small bird species including swifts, house sparrows and starlings (e.g. see NHBC Foundation: Biodiversity in New Housing Developments (April 2021) Section 8.1 Nest sites for birds, page 42: https://www.nhbcfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/S067-NF89-Biodiversity-in-new-housing-developments_FINAL.pdf).</p> <p>Swift bricks are significantly more beneficial than external bird boxes as they are a permanent feature of the building, have zero maintenance requirements, are aesthetically integrated with the design of the building, and have better thermal regulation with future climate change in mind.</p> <p>Therefore, swift bricks should be included in all developments following best-practice guidance (which is available in BS 42021:2022 and from CIEEM (https://cieem.net/resource/the-swift-a-bird-you-need-to-help/)).</p> <p>The UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) is a membership-led industry network and they have produced a document entitled: "The Nature Recovery & Climate Resilience Playbook" (Version 1.0, November 2022) https://ukgbc.org/resources/the-nature-recovery-and-climate-resilience-playbook/ This document is designed to empower local authorities and planning officers to enhance climate resilience and better protect nature across their local area, and includes a recommendation (page 77) which</p>	

Consultee	Comment	Response/ proposed change
	<p>reflects guidance throughout this document: "Recommendation: Local planning Authorities should introduce standard planning conditions and policies to deliver low cost/no regret biodiversity enhancement measures in new development as appropriate, such as bee bricks, swift boxes [and bricks] and hedgehog highways."</p> <p>Many local authorities are including detailed swift brick requirements in their plans, such as Tower Hamlets Local Plan Regulation 19 stage (paragraph 18.72, page 328 - https://talk.towerhamlets.gov.uk/local-plan), which follows the exemplary swift brick guidance implemented by Brighton & Hove since 2020, and Wiltshire Local Plan Regulation 19 stage, which requires an enhanced number of 2 swift bricks per dwelling (policy 88: Biodiversity in the built environment, page 246 - "As a minimum, the following are required within new proposals: 1. integrate integral bird nest bricks (e.g., swift bricks) at a minimum of two per dwelling;" https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8048/Current-consultation-Reg-19), and Cotswold District Council are proposing three swift bricks per dwelling in their current Local Plan consultation (Policy EN8 item 6, and paragraph 0.8.4, https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-update-and-supporting-information/), so such an enhanced level should also be considered.</p>	
Policy/ paragraph	Policy 6: Local Green Space	
Northumberland County Council	Change 'the protection of land within the Green Belt' to 'national policy'. The NPPF policy on Green Belt has changed recently (Dec 2024).	Comments noted, amend as suggested.
Northumberland County Council	All LGS listed in the policy are included in the LGS background paper and seem to satisfy the criteria.	Comments noted; no amendments required.
Sandra Hardwick (resident)	Newsham Pond needs to be opened up to allow a cycle path through it to the new station. Halfpenny Woods is not in Blyth. Too many allotments protected, these need to be consolidated to allow land for the Ogle Drive road to be	Comments noted; no amendments required. The creation of a cycle path would not be restricted as a result of LGS designation. Part of Halfpenny Woods is in Blyth Parish (see policies map).

Consultee	Comment	Response/ proposed change
	<p>extended onto Princess Louise Road to effectively create a "connected town". This policy is at odds with better connectivity.</p>	<p>Allotments are valued by the local community (see background paper for reasons for proposed allocations).</p>
<p>Moira Monaghan (resident)</p>	<p>All green belt should be protected with no exceptions allowed.</p>	<p>Comments noted; no amendments required. Development within the Green Belt is required to meet the strong tests set out within national planning policy.</p>
<p>Mr Jamie Curle (resident)</p>	<p>I was reading up on the neighbourhood consultation plan. The online form was a little intense and seemed to require me to read a large amount of paperwork. I managed to get through a fair chunk of it, but I must be honest in that I really only am concerned with the area you refer to as LGS17, or Crofton field / woods.</p> <p>I noticed that you have entered a cross on the documents where wildlife is assessed for the site.</p> <p>This would be an incorrect assessment as the woodland now has a small red squirrel population in it. I was lucky enough to see this population on a meeting with Leon Savage (tree officer) on the 1st Nov 2024. He captured video evidence.</p> <p>The site is plagued by youths setting fires, underage drinking, motorbikes and air rifle usage. I myself have around 6 police reports logged this year as well as multiple fire service requests for the site. My neighbours likely have a similar amount. I also have a nice cache of video evidence relating to fires and motorbikes. If it were up to me, I would prioritise the surveillance, arrest and prosecution of these individuals. It would appear that casually attaching signs to ingress points did little to deter anyone this year. Consider me shocked.</p> <p>Given the red squirrel population, the council now has an obligation to actually do something to manage the anti-social usage of the site. I am not a legal professional, but to the best of my knowledge the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - Schedule 5(specifically mentions <i>S. vulgaris</i>) would</p>	<p>Comments noted; amend background paper to add further detail regarding wildlife value.</p> <p>Any comments re ASB?</p>

Consultee	Comment	Response/ proposed change
	<p>certainly apply. It applies because it makes it an offence to intentionally kill or injure a red squirrel or intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy any structure or place a red squirrel uses for shelter or protection, or disturb a red squirrel while it occupies such a place. The trees that are frequently burned (Pinus. ssp) are the habitat. The anti-social behavior is therefor in scope and the council is therefor bound to take action as the Occupier.</p> <p>I wanted to ensure this was considered in the context of the plan, so that the council is officially on notice of the red squirrel population and the threats to that population caused by the continuing lack of tackling the anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>I have a vested interest in the woodland because my house backs out onto the northern boundary of the woodland site and I'd quite like to not have to call the fire bridge / police once every two weeks from the end of March until the end of the school holidays.</p>	
Anonymous resident - NE24 2AA	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Miller Homes (Lichfields)	<p>We note that the western part of our client's site and the land out with our client's site to the east is proposed to be designated Local Green Space (Policy 6 ref LGS20 and LGS3 respectively). Whilst we do not object to the principle of this in part, the NPPF requires this Local Green Space designation should only be used where it is 'demonstrably special' and 'local in character' (NPPF paragraph 107). Having reviewed the Local Green Space and Protected Open Space Background Paper, we consider there is nothing 'demonstrably special' about the southern area of LGS20 that immediately abuts Laverock Hall Road and it should be removed from the designation.</p>	<p>Thoughts on the small area to the southern part of LGS20 – it is a wooded area that could be considered important to the character of the area</p> 

Consultee	Comment	Response/ proposed change
Janice Simpson (former resident)	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Michael Priaulx (former resident)	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Mrs Stoneman (resident)	Support the draft policy. Keep green sites green, keep farms as farms (not windfarms on land). Town dwelling people need areas to get exercise (and dogs too!) Children need to learn about nature and environment and how to preserve it on good condition for future.	Support welcomed and comments noted; no amendments required.
Gabriel Davies (resident)	Support the draft policy. Please read comments in 7 regarding the beach zone. I would highlight also a lack of a safe bike path from south beach northwards through the town towards newbiggen and beyond. The bike path to Seaton sluice is great, cycling into the town, northwards through blyth, from the beach, is like taking your life in your hands. I'm not sure if bike paths are classed as green spaces, but we need more trees, more sand dunes, more bike paths, more scooter and skateboard and buggy friendly access.	Comments? Not relevant to planning policies
Policy/ paragraph		
Northumberland County Council	<p>Policy 7: Protected Open Space</p> <p>It is not clear from the policies map how POS2 differs from site 3102 (Policy INF5) in the Northumberland Local Plan. Is the second space (shown in the second image, below) also intended to be part of POS2? If so, this should be made clearer. Also, perhaps this detail could be added to Appendix 1 of the background paper?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><i>NLP</i></p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><i>Blyth NP</i></p>  </div> </div>	Comments noted; amend policies map so the extent of the designation is clear. Appendix 1 of the LGS and POS background paper (page 20) explains that part of the site is allocated in the NLP as amenity green space but that the designation does not include all of the open space which is considered important to the amenity of the area.

Consultee	Comment	Response/ proposed change
Northumberland County Council	Second part of policy is duplicated from Northumberland Local Plan policy INF 5.	Comments noted; amend to remove duplication.
Sandra Hardwick (resident)	Yes I agree existing play facilities need to be protected to provide sports facilities for everyone. However, your obsession with providing playgrounds for young children needs to stop. We have enough! Try changing the record, mix it up a bit. Think of something else to spend the money on.	Not relevant to the NP policy/allocations – any response?
Moira Monaghan (resident)	There is not enough Green space in Blyth and what there is not properly maintained.	Comments noted; no amendments required. Policies 6 and 7 seek to protect existing open spaces. Policy INF 5 within the Northumberland Local Plan requires the provision of open space as part of new development.
Blyth Golf Club	<p>I am writing on behalf of Blyth Golf Club. The Blyth Neighbourhood draft plan has proposed our land to be "protected open space" under local planning regulations, and we seek clarification on the implications of this designation for our property and business operations.</p> <p>As we understand it, a protected open space designation typically restricts the development and usage of land, but we would greatly appreciate further details regarding the specific restrictions, obligations, and any potential opportunities associated with this classification.</p> <p>In particular, we would be grateful if you could provide insight into the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development Restrictions: What types of development or alterations to the land will be prohibited under this designation? Does this impact our ability to build new structures or expand existing ones? 2. Public Access and Use: Will the land be required to be open to public use, and are there any stipulations regarding the type of public access (e.g., recreational use, pathways, etc.)? 3. Tax Implications: Will this designation affect our property tax status or offer any tax incentives or reductions due to the land's new classification as open space? 	<p>Comments noted; no amendments required.</p> <p>In response to the specific questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy 7 of the draft neighbourhood plan explains what would need to be demonstrated by the applicant to justify the loss of all or part of an area designated as protected open space, so that would include new buildings or extensions to new buildings. For example, criterion 'c' would provide support for such a development where it would be linked to recreation provision, outweighing the loss of the open space. 2. The allocation would not change any existing public access rights, it is only relevant to the consideration of proposals which require planning permission. 3. The policy only relates to development requiring planning permission. 4. No requirements or responsibilities.

Consultee	Comment	Response/ proposed change
	<p>4. Maintenance and Responsibilities: Are there any requirements or responsibilities for us as landowners in terms of maintaining the land or complying with specific guidelines under the open space designation?</p> <p>5. Future Zoning or Use Changes: Should we wish to apply for a zoning change or modify the current land use, what is the process for doing so, and what factors will the council consider in approving or denying such requests?</p> <p>6. Potential for Community or Environmental Benefits: Are there any opportunities for us to engage with the community or leverage this designation for environmental or public benefit, such as hosting community events or environmental initiatives?</p> <p>Understanding the full scope of implications will help us make informed decisions about our future plans for the land. We are committed to complying with local regulations and would appreciate your guidance on how we can best navigate this process.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and assistance. We look forward to your response and are happy to arrange a meeting if you feel it would be helpful.</p>	<p>5. Once the plan is made, any changes to allocations could only be made through a review of the development plan (neighbourhood plan or local plan).</p> <p>6. If the Golf Club is looking to deliver community events at the site, then the designation would not change that.</p>
Anonymous resident - NE24 2AA	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Janice Simpson (former resident)	Support the draft policy. Does this list include the area between South Newsham Road and The Avenue in Seaton Delaval? If not, should it be included?	Support welcomed and comments noted; no amendments required. The area between South Newsham Road and the Avenue in Seaton Delaval is within the Green Belt.
Michael Priaulx (former resident)	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Mrs Stoneman (resident)	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required

Consultee	Comment	Response/ proposed change
Gabriel Davies (resident)	Support the draft policy	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Annex 1 - Community actions		
Northumberland County Council	The County Council recognises that the Community Actions included within the Plan will not be subject to Independent Examination.	Comments noted; no amendments required.
Sandra Hardwick (resident)	I think you need to check that there are any permitted development rights for HMOs. I don't think there are. HMOs are not C3 use class for planning permission.	Comments noted; no amendments required. Article 4 directions can be put in place to remove permitted development rights to change from a dwelling house to a HMO with up to six occupants. HMOs with more than 6 occupants fall within the sui generis use class and therefore planning permission would be required.
Moira Monaghan (resident)	Pavement parking should be banned as it is extremely dangerous especially for the disabled and elderly.	Comments noted; no amendments required. Parking on pavements is a parking enforcement matter which is the responsibility of Northumberland County Council.
Anonymous resident - NE24 2AA	Well thought out	Support welcomed; no amendments required
Mrs Stoneman (resident)	<p>Actions should include all ages, especially young ones – try to give them pride in Blyth. So not littering, no unruly behaviour, respect for the town, keep it clean and safe place to be.</p> <p>Clean up dog litter.</p> <p>Police visible in town.</p> <p>Fewer cycle racks - bikes on roads only please.</p> <p>Bring back shops to town centre – lower rents to encourage businesses to come here and incentives to come here.</p> <p>Make landlords of empty properties keep them in good repair and clean condition for their neighbours sake and to keep down vermin (rats!) Look on Bondicar Terrace (middle block – empty houses)</p>	Comments?

Consultee	Comment	Response/ proposed change
<p>Gabriel Davies (resident)</p>	<p>To be a flagship beach that we can all be proud of, Blyth Beach needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue flag status. • Jet ski access moved away from south beach, to a launch zone that does not affect swimmers, surfers and residents. Shared concerns are flagged every year to NCC, last year 2 vehicles sank at the launch ramp on Beachway, causing utter chaos. • The 4wd on beach and water craft zooming around swimmers and surfers is a noisy, polluting, dangerous hazard to residents, walkers and beach and sea users. This has been raised with NCC and BTC by residents for years now with no positive solution. <p>Add lifeguard provision: It is a disaster waiting to happen, not having safety cover on this urban beach. Especially with the jet ski chaos, at one end of the beach. We have a surf shop, a surf school and the only safety cover is surfers in the water and any surf coaches who happen to be in the water who are lifeguard trained. Let's support these water users who offer surf lessons for kids, good sales in shops, and positive feedback to the community. The volunteer club has been 'homeless' since the documented lifeguard tower debacle.</p> <p>Sand dune and beach erosion: the dunes have retreated back to the sea wall, a good few metres each year. This exposure now risks future collapsing of promenade, as it becomes ever more exposed. Sand replenishment and dune restoration are drastically needed, which offers nature based solutions to the future risks of climate and sea damage.</p> <p>Long term solution to the hideous red/ white plastic barriers.</p> <p>Removal of all the death memorial benches and plastic flowers that haunt them. Can we create a walkway with nice seating? that is not like sitting on a graveyard? If you can find an empty bench to sit on, you'll be lucky. Most likely you'll have to sit next to old or plastic flowers and wreaths, sorry if this sounds disrespectful, but that's the reality. Surely it's not in anyone's interest to be</p>	<p>Comments?</p>

Consultee	Comment	Response/ proposed change
	<p>remembered this way. Our child and his young friends literally think they are graves.</p> <p>Encourage projects like oyster restoration projects that were part of the blyth harbour for a while. One oyster can clean one bath tub of dirty water per day. We need solutions to clean water, and boost biodiversity.</p> <p>Anything else I'd love to see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More kids support for water and beach access, priorities for car charging, community energy solar power and car share. Warm Solar beach showers. More bike paths, more trees. More green spaces support and more wild flowers. More biodiversity, birds insects and flowers. • Love the events BTC put on and the cultural aspects of local music, art, film and theatre. Also the new train stations look ace! <p>Let's be bold into the future!!</p>	