

Parish Plan for Swarland and Newton on the Moor

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1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

1.1. Reflections

Sitting in late September 2010 writing this final part of the Parish Plan, the Hog Roast and Wine & Cheese events we held back in late September 2007 to get the ball rolling, and the preparation and distribution of the questionnaire seem a long time past. The Parish Plan process has been like a journey of discovery: you do not know quite what will turn up on the way or where exactly you will end up. I am pleased to say we are now at the end of the journey. The next journey, to deliver the Parish Plan, now begins.

1.2. A great effort

Many people have been involved in the process and have provided many different contributions and direction. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved for all your time and effort. We can, rightly, be proud of the fact that we have met the challenges and produced something of real value from within our community, with minimum input from consultants and outside support. Full details of those who contributed to the Parish Plan Steering Group are contained in Appendix 1.

1.3. The right support

Thank you also to The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Community Action Northumberland (CAN) and the Parish Council for their direct financial support for our efforts.

1.4. What next?

A plan is not worth much if it simply sits on a shelf gathering dust, so we hope that it will make a difference and good things will happen in its wake. Some of us have more time than others to spend on community activities, not everyone has got the time to get involved in groups and committees, and some may not want to. Nevertheless, if we all try to do a little, then that adds up and we can make a real difference to the place in which we live. If you have any feedback or comments about the plan please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Robert Brotherton
Chairman
Parish Plan Steering Group

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Notes:

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2. THE PARISH PLAN

2.1. What is a Parish Plan?

Parish Plans have arisen in response to the government's wish that communities take more control of their own neighbourhoods, define their own needs, and find ways to initiate change.

The preparation of a Plan should:

- a) involve the whole community by means of surveys and research;
- b) consider all aspects of local life, social, economic and environmental;
- c) have a time scale of about 10 years into the future;
- d) contain a detailed action plan.

2.2. Aim and Objectives of Our Parish Plan

The aim of the Steering Group was to produce a plan for the parish of Newton on the Moor and Swarland based on views and needs identified from as many members of the community as were willing to participate.

The objectives were to:

- a) identify the key issues and priorities necessary to bring about beneficial change;
- b) provide an action plan which could be used to establish priorities and budgets;
- c) provide well-researched evidence of need to help gain funding, support or involvement from the local authority and other external agencies.

2.3. Method

a) Events were held in Swarland (a Hog Roast) and Newton on the Moor (a Wine & Cheese evening) to which all members of the community were invited. They wrote comments on Post-it notes which were left behind for analysis and are listed in Appendix 2.

b) Every household in the parish received a questionnaire in April 2008. The questionnaire content partly arose from information gathered from the Post-it notes.

3. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

3.1. Introduction

Production of the Parish Plan has taken time, but has identified from parish residents many ideas and areas of development as well as further questions that

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need answering. As well as very useful individual comments and suggestions, the process also identified broad trends that will help local decision makers in the future. Not everything asked for can be delivered, but at least issues of importance to local people can be further considered. Some needs are already resolved; with others the process is just beginning.

In this first part of the Parish Plan, the findings from each section have been summarised and the main themes identified. The action / recommendation plan summarises key areas for development, and when possible identifies the agency best placed to lead the action.

3.2. Key priorities for the people of Newton on the Moor and Swarland

Throughout the whole Parish Plan process it was apparent that a number of issues cut across the individual subject areas. These were:

- a) The lack of facilities for the 13-18 year age group.
- b) The desire for more social events and activities to bring people together.
- c) The need for better communication between the community and the Parish Council.
- d) The lack of adequate public transport facilities.
- e) Better access to front-line health services now and in the future.
- f) The need by a significant number in the community for some form of help.
- g) Traffic and the physical state of the roads within the parish.
- h) The natural environment.

3.3. Survey of local business

Issues highlighted by local businesses included the lack of buses, poor broadband provision, inadequate signage from the A1 and lack of affordable housing.

3.4. Amenities and facilities

The facilities in the parish including the Post Office, village shop, village halls, the club, pub and golf club, were well used, but there were indications of need for: improvements to Swarland Village Hall, a wider range of social events to bring people together, provision for teenagers' needs, more buses, and a welcome pack for new residents.

3.5. Housing

Despite previous affordable housing studies, the need for such housing within the parish has not yet been resolved. The lack of a suitable location for such development may be a limiting factor.

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3.6. Natural Environment

Concern about the local Red Squirrel population ranked high, along with the possibility of improving Vyner Park and access to other amenities (such as Swarland Woods) within the parish. A significant number of people are interested in taking part in heritage activities.

3.7. Energy and infrastructure

There is strong support for sustainable energy resources in the parish, the provision of mains gas throughout the parish, and improvements to recycling facilities.

3.8. Traffic

The condition of parish roads and speeding contribute to making a number of people feel unsafe on the local roads. The need for pavements on Leamington Lane and Park Road were specifically mentioned. Anecdotal evidence also indicated that excess speed on the narrow roads within Swarland village and to the south of The Avenue were also a problem.

In Newton on the Moor there were specific problems with heavy goods vehicles and latterly large farm vehicles.

A majority of respondents desired the use of traffic calming measures.

3.9. Transport

Lack of public transport is a key issue for both the younger members of the community and those older residents who do not have access to private transport. This in turn limits their ability to make use of other services. Much additional effort and research has been directed at the provision of bus services since the questionnaire was completed. The issue continues to develop with further reductions in main-stream provision expected early 2011. At this stage however it is clear that if the community wants to retain a regular bus service, it is a case of "use it or lose it".

There will be a need in future for the community to consider other means of having their public transport needs met.

3.10. Community Links

The survey would seem to indicate that around 37 people felt they needed some form of help within the community. A significant number felt the recreational and social needs of young people were not being met. Around half of the respondents also felt the needs of older residents and those with hearing and mobility difficulties were unmet.

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3.11. Health and Social Care

About 8% of respondents considered themselves to be carers, a quarter of whom felt that they did not have proper support, particularly with respite care.

Accessing frontline health care services from the parish using public transport is not possible.

These issues will become even more important in the future as we see an overall increase in the retired population.

3.12 Education

Swarland County First School is an essential part of the community and also helps to link the community with Longframlington Parish. Provision of pre- and after-school facilities were found adequate with only a very small number of respondents indicating dissatisfaction. Recent additional measures taken by Chester Bears have met those concerns.

The 13-18 year age group indicated their particular interest in after- school provision. This echoed suggestions made at the initial public launch events relating to some form of youth club.

There would appear to be a strong demand for adult education classes in the parish, particularly language and computer classes.

The existence of the dormant Strothers Charitable Trust is of interest in this context and needs to be further investigated.

3.13. Employment

The majority of those who work commute outside the parish to do so. However, a relatively high number work from home, a trend that is likely to increase in the future for certain areas of activity, as Information Technology provides the means to do it. There is also a clear desire by those in work to be able to work within or closer to the parish. A significant proportion of residents are retired.

High quality broadband provision is one important factor allowing individuals to work from home.

Lack of public transport limits the younger age groups' ability to travel to work or further education.

3.14. Local Democracy

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Generally there is a good level of awareness of who our parish councillors are and how to contact them. However about half the respondents do not understand the Parish Council system, a baseline from which to encourage improvements.

Comments from respondents focussed on the need to improve a) the understanding of the Parish Council system, particularly among the younger age groups within the community, and b) communication between the community and the Parish Council.

As a result of the recent reorganisation of local government in Northumberland into a unitary authority, and emerging policy signals from the new central government on “localism” and the “Big Society”, much more emphasis, risk and responsibility will be placed on parish councils. It is crucial that the way our Parish Council works evolves to meet the challenge to represent the views and needs of the local community.

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4. ABOUT OUR PARISH

4.1. Introduction

The origin of the English parish is not clear, but it is a term that appears to go back around 1300 years. Some historians are of the view that parish boundaries were originally those of Saxon manors. The extent to which the church parish and the local Lord's authority overlapped is apparent when you consider that before the Norman invasion one of the accepted ways of becoming a Thegn was to build a church, especially one with a tower (the tower being a defensive measure against the threat of Danish invaders). The Thegn could then appoint or dismiss the Priest as he saw fit.

Following the Norman Conquest the power shifted from the Lord of the Manor towards the King and the Church, both of which were closely interlinked, and the "Parish" became defined more as an administrative area within a diocese that had its own church.

In more recent times the parish has taken on a more political role as a subdivision of a British county, usually corresponding in boundaries to an original ecclesiastical parish. The power has shifted to elected parish councillors and county councillors. This is very much true of the parish of Newton on the Moor and Swarland, which does not have its own Anglican Church, but shares those of the parishes of Shilbottle and Felton.

The parish of Newton on the Moor has a varied and unique history which has evolved from its feudal agrarian past to the modern day. Farming and forestry (and until quite recently mining) are still important elements of what goes on in the local area, but the numbers of people directly involved in these activities is very small in comparison with 100 or even 50 years ago. Swarland Estate became, for a relatively short period, a privately funded Land Settlement Association called the "Fountains Abbey Settlers' Society Ltd". How that particular division of land has continued literally to shape the parish forms a very interesting element of social history.

The parish of today, with its position close to the A1, east coast main line, and the local centres of Alnwick and Morpeth, is a place where people seek to live and enjoy the Northumberland countryside, whilst travelling to other areas to work. Access to the local Forestry Commission-owned Swarland Woods is an important asset for us all. Our local First School is a central part of the community, not only providing a good start for children, but also helping to support the social fabric of the parish and surrounding areas. Our parish has developed an air of affluence and supports a number of active groups and organisations as well as locally based businesses and services.

As in other rural communities, the average age of those living in the parish is increasing as young people move on or cannot afford to live in the area. Those that do not have the benefit of their own transport are finding it increasingly hard to access services such as primary healthcare and shops. An ever-reducing budget at county level results in a reduction in services such as road maintenance, snow-ploughing and gritting, whilst council tax continues to rise. For those still at school it is hard to

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find social activities close to home and infrequent public transport limits their access to other options.

4.2. Parish Boundaries

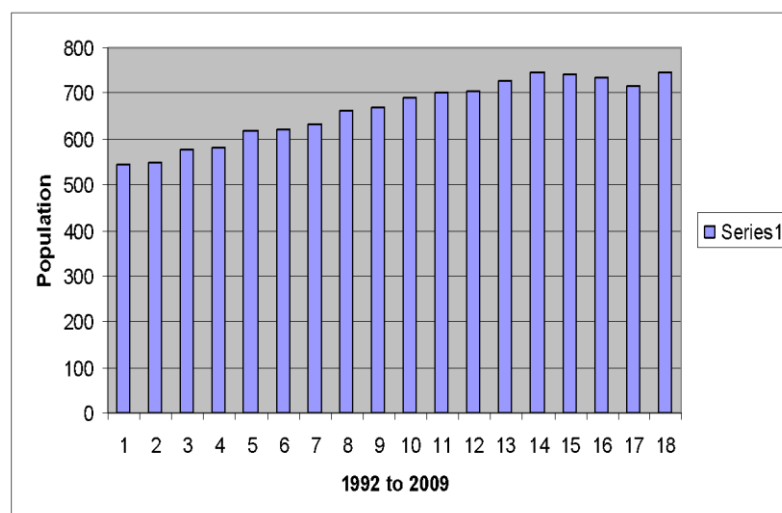
There is a map of the parish of Newton on the Moor and Swarland inside the front cover. The parish boundary follows a sometimes peculiar course in relation to those of neighbouring parishes of Longframlington, Felton, Shilbottle and Denwick. In the west it extends into Longframlington and in the east as far as Whittle Colliery and Hazon. Felton parish extends well west of the A1, while the A1 leaves part our parish marooned on its east side. The needs of the late 18th century Land Enclosure Acts do not quite match up to 21st century requirements.

The Parish Council is currently considering how the existing boundaries could be altered to provide a more pragmatic and sensible reflection of local needs.

In looking forward we must consider how the parish relates to its neighbours. There are strong links with Longframlington through a shared school, and with both Felton and Shilbottle through shared churches. We contribute to the maintenance of Felton Cemetery and the Obelisk (which, though strongly associated with Swarland, is actually situated in Felton parish).

4.3. Population trends

The chart below illustrates the population trend in Newton on the Moor and Swarland between 1992 (545) and 2009 (747) based on the Register of Electors (this does not include unregistered adults and children under 18).



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The population peaked at 746 in 2005 and dipped to 717 in 2008 before reaching 747 (i.e. Swarland 560, Newton on the Moor 187) in 2009. The sharp increase of 30 between 2008 and 2009 could be explained in part by people ensuring they were registered to vote in the General Election. Overall the figures equate to an increase of 37% between 1992 and 2009. These figures will be affected by Percy Wood Country Retreat residents who need to register for Council Tax and the Register of Electors. At the time of writing there are seven Percy Wood households registered for Council Tax. The arrangement came into place around 2005 / 06.

4.4. A History of the Parish

The civil parish of Newton on the Moor and Swarland is comprised of two wards, both of which are reflected in its name. Prior to 1955, each ward had its own separate Parish Council, but after an enforced amalgamation, the assigned name was that of Newton-on-the-Moor only. It was as recently as 1988, and because of confusion when corresponding with District and County Councils, that “Swarland” was added to its name. There are twelve Parish Councillors – five for Newton ward and seven for Swarland.

There are some perceived anomalies with regard to its boundaries, but these reflect the ancient land ownerships, which can be seen on the Felton Enclosure Award Map of 1754. Although these had changed by the time of the Local Government Act of 1894, it was not mandatory to have regard to these changes when creating the new civil parishes, and here they did not.

The civil parish includes the main villages of Newton on the Moor and Swarland. The latter, once known as Swarland Moor, is a perfect example of a village name being transferred to a different place when the balance of population changes away from the original which, 75 years ago, was the hamlet now known as Low (or Old) Swarland.

Also within the parish are the old “townships” of Hazon, Hartlaw, Greens, Glantlees, and part of Whittle. There are numerous farms, some of which have been developed in recent years to become small hamlets whilst others have declined markedly in population.

There are two relevant ecclesiastical parishes: Shilbottle which includes Newton on the Moor, and Felton which includes Swarland. These church boundaries nearly match those of the civil parish wards, and meet at Newton Hall.

Both wards, with their ancient “townships” and scattered farmsteads, have recorded histories as early as the 13th century, and mention of prehistoric and Roman traces

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before that. In the Newton ward, there are 30 listed buildings (not all are houses) with three inside the village. In the Swarland ward there are 20, one of which, Swarland Old Hall, built in 1642, is Grade II*. Most, however, are listed owing to their association with the Fountains Abbey Settlement of the 1930s.

In 1972 Newton on the Moor was designated a Conservation Area, revised in 2006. This has afforded a measure of protection to its attractive street scene of locally quarried stone cottages which front the road to Longframlington.

Early records show that it was established as a borough in 1249 (i.e. allowed to hold a market) and that it was owned by several prominent people over the years including briefly, Simon de Montfort after 1256, and later by notable Northumbrian families including Forster, Carr, Lisle, Ord, Heron and Strother.

In 1670 Thomas Forster sold his land in Newton on the Moor to Edward Cook of Amble whose great-great-grandson assumed the name of Widdrington, his maternal great-grandfather, in 1840. Newton Hall, built in 1772 and said to be on the site of an Elizabethan farmhouse, remained as the home of the Widdringtons until 2010.

The character of Newton on the Moor has changed considerably over the years, most noticeably in the last century. It once was an obvious estate village with workers employed there or on surrounding farms, at the early Newton Colliery or Whittle pit, at nearby quarries or lime kilns. It now is home to a population of retired and those who follow a variety of occupations.

Having had a school, a Methodist Chapel, a reading room, three inns and a post office / general shop, it now has only the vastly extended Cook and Barker Inn (formerly the Cook and Barker Arms). Most properties are privately owned, many having been built over the last three decades, and the estate cottages were sold into private ownership in 1957.

The former 'townships' also have interesting histories which are well recorded in the County History Volumes V & VII.

The history of Swarland is recorded from 1270, when it was owned by the Carliol family that produced a number of prominent citizens of Newcastle (reflected in such names as Carliol House and Carliol Square). Owing to the lack of a male descendant, the estate devolved to the Hesilrigges who remained for 300 years. On the enclosure of Felton Common in 1754, Richard Grieve was awarded a portion of land on Swarland Moor in lieu of his "right of common of pasture", and it was his son, Davidson Richard Grieve who built Swarland House here in 1765, a mile north of the Old Hall. After his death in 1795, this estate was sold to Alexander Davison (personal friend of Lord Nelson and later his prize agent) in whose family it remained until 1874, when it was conveyed to Hugh Andrews, then in about 1901 to James Wood.

After the Great War an absentee landlord resulted in the slow decline of a once beautiful area, and in 1922 it was sold to the owners of Shilbottle, Whittle and Longframlington collieries who used the mansion as a miners' hostel. In 1934, at the height of the industrial depression, much of the estate was bought by Mr Clare Vyner's Fountains Abbey Settlers' Society to develop a settlement for unemployed tradesmen from Tyneside. The main Hall had been demolished. Between 1934 and

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1940 the venture provided small-holdings (each set in about 1½ acres), employment in a brickworks, a joinery factory and a tweed mill, an estate nurse with attending dentist, a new school, village hall, communal piggery, recreation ground and three shops. But by the end of the war in 1945 families were moving back to their roots and in 1947 the settlement was sold to existing tenants and new buyers.

In 1972 it was suggested that in order to finance the making up of unmetalled estate roads, it made sense to sell individual paddocks (of about one acre) for building. After a slow start, development has increased the number of dwellings from 94 to about 300. There is also now a caravan park on the periphery of the village which has the potential for more than 500 units.

Swarland too has a mixed population of artisan, professional and retired people, but now has only one shop / post office. There is a golf course, a working men's club, a refurbished recreation ground with a new children's play area, and an equestrian centre on The Park.

Time and events have changed the fabric as well as the character of both villages, whilst the former townships have extended rather than contracted owing to the way in which employment, particularly farming, has altered over the years. The names which occur in the history of both wards are recognisable today as they are woven into national as well as Northumbrian history.

The present parish of Newton on the Moor and Swarland continues to evolve as the population increases, and new aspirations give the impetus to improving amenities where possible, and creating a vibrant environment for present day living.

How can we plan for the future if we do not know about the past?

References:

1. Newton on the Moor: County History Vol V. Alan Mitchell (submission for Conservation Area Status 1972), Robin Kent (Conservation Area Appraisal 2006).
2. Swarland: County History Vol VII. Personal Communication, Personal Documents and Reports.

4.5. Planning Policy

Government programmes and local planning policies are both committed to the promotion of sustainable communities. In planning policy this means locating new developments whenever possible in settlements where there is already a mix of jobs and services (shops, schools, businesses, etc), in order to avoid unnecessary travel and the duplication of overheads or other investments. However, in rural areas this ideal is not always possible, and a more flexible approach is needed, whereby services and jobs are located over several communities in a cluster. Therefore we should make the case to decision-makers that our cluster of communities is sustainable, because we have within it a good range of services, for example:

- a) first school
- b) shop and post office
- c) pub and other bars

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- d) village halls
- e) bus services linking to Alnwick and Newcastle
- f) easy access to the East Coast mainline rail service
- g) play areas and sports facilities
- h) churches
- i) car repairs and servicing.

But a sustainable community is more than just a co-location of homes and services; more importantly it is what we do individually and collectively to ensure our community is well-prepared to face future issues. This includes:

- a) good neighbouring and other social support
- b) recycling waste
- c) energy-saving and efficiency
- d) developing energy from renewable sources
- e) sharing resources with neighbouring communities
- f) planning for emergencies and disasters.

4.6. What are our parish assets?

At the start of the Parish Plan process we listed what we considered to be the key assets that help make our parish what it is. They include:

4.6.1. Open facilities

- a) Vyner Park, including children's playground
- b) The Square, Swarland
- c) Swarland Woods (Forestry Commission open access)
- d) Duke's Wood
- e) A network of footpaths and bridle paths
- f) Swarland Village Hall
- g) Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor
- h) Swarland County First School
- i) Fun Club
- j) Chester Bears
- k) Swarland Shop and Post Office
- l) Cook and Barker Inn
- m) Clubs and societies
- n) The Column newsletter.

4.6.2. Restricted facilities

- a) Swarland Working Men's Club
- b) Swarland Sports Club
- c) Swarland Hall Golf Club and associated facilities
- d) Swarland Equestrian Centre and associated facilities
- e) Fishing opportunities at Shiel Dykes and Felton Fence

4.6.3. Potential facilities

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Access here is subject to negotiated permission from landowners for circular walks, the erection of explanatory plaques, and so on. Some may also require permission from Department of Environment, and Defence bodies.

- a) Newton Hall estate e.g. the Lake, walled garden and garden walks, Napoleonic graves
- b) Whittle Colliery site (if redeveloped for recreational use)
- c) The hill fort on Chester Hill
- d) Historical / archaeological sites around the parish e.g. rock carvings
- e) Overgrass Tower, underground barracks and pill boxes
- f) Early Non-Conformist meeting sites (grave and meeting places)
- g) Brick field sites / lime kilns / tramways, ways from old pits, cock fighting pit, fossils in limestone beds
- h) Identification of buildings across the parish for their previous uses and occupants.

4.6.4. Swarland First School

Swarland County First School opened on 29th November 1937, built as a temporary measure with 129 children on roll aged from 5 to 14 years. There were four classes, one Infant, two Junior and one Senior. The school was heated with classroom fires and its curriculum was based on the three Rs.

Today it is a County First School which caters for children from 4 to 9 years. These children are from three main villages and their environs: Swarland, Longframlington and Newton on the Moor. All aspects of the National Curriculum (12 subjects) are delivered whilst trying to make learning fun for children. The school has been extended to provide extra facilities and improved outdoor provision for all ages. The ethos of the school incorporates the feeling of family into the process of learning, which helps children grow to be caring members of their communities.

The school has taken part in the discussion on the Parish Plan and each year has used the villages extensively in the curriculum in its Villages topic, as well as using the Sports Centre for tennis in the summer. Reception classes use the playground as part of their Toys topic. Members of the community are also invited into our Cultural Event in the summer term. The school would like to increase its participation in the community in the future by:

- Linking the Gardening Club to the allotments in the village
- Using local residents to support some of the creative projects
- Using the village for orienteering exercises.

The parish community can assist the school in some of its projects by:

- Developing a footpath at the Main Entrance – this was part of the Travel Plan submitted to the County Council
- Caring for the environment
- Making the villages safe places.

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4.6.5. Local Business

Local businesses are socially and financially a valuable part of the local community, for example:

- Farming and forestry are still important elements of the local economy.
- Swarland Shop and Post Office is centrally located in Swarland and, since Newton on the Moor lost its shop and Post Office, is the only retail outlet in the parish.
- Swarland Garage provides an extremely valuable local service to car owners.
- Swarland Park Equestrian Centre illustrates diversification in the use of farmland to provide alternative sources of income that compensate for a decline in returns from traditional agricultural enterprises.
- Tourism underpins a significant local business sector in the parish, which includes Percy Wood Country Retreat* & Golf Club and a number of B & B and self-catering establishments. The Old School Guest House in Newton on the Moor has won a number of awards. These businesses help to sustain other important businesses such as Swarland Village Shop and Post Office, the Cook and Barker Inn (whose renown stretches well beyond the parish), and Swarland Working Men's Club.

*Percy Wood Country Retreat is a large static caravan and chalet holiday development (maximum capacity 550 units) within former Forestry Commission woodlands on the western side of Swarland village. The development now also includes Swarland Hall Golf Club which was acquired later. The Country Retreat site is open for 11 months of the year, closing annually for the month of February. Whilst many who own caravans or chalets use them for holidays only, a number of owners use them as their permanent residence. Despite its value as a business, there are real concerns within Swarland over the impact of its size on the locality.

An increasing number of local people are able to work from home and this is a trend that is likely to increase.

4.6.6. Local Social Enterprise

In contrast with urban areas, rural communities do not have access to a wide range of facilities and services provided by local government. This means that local initiative and enterprise is often required to provide what is needed. Whilst self-help and enterprise must be viewed as positive for many reasons, we seem to be faced with ever-decreasing services in return for the increasing contribution that rural parishes like ours make to local government funds via council tax.

We have some very good examples of local social enterprise in the parish, such as:

4.6.6.1. Chester Bears and Fun Club

Excellent pre-school facilities are provided by Chester Bears, a community-based and -managed group. The Chairperson and committee members as well as paid members of staff are all local parents. Chester Bears recently

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successfully raised funds for a new and much improved Portakabin facility for early-years provision. Although the facility is within the Swarland First School site, it is managed separately by the Chairperson and committee, but activities are fully integrated with the school. This is a key strength of having the building on the school site.

The Fun Club is also a separately-run locally-managed service which provides out of hours facilities for children of school age. This makes use of the school hall and works closely with the school.

4.6.6.2. Swarland Club

Swarland Working Men's Club (or The Club as it is informally called) was set up in the early 1950s by a group of village residents. It is CIU Affiliated and run by a small committee. It has been noted for its entertainment on Saturday nights with audiences from a wide area. It has a healthy membership, a strongly supported Leek Club with an annual show in September, and an annual quoits competition affectionately known as the World Quoits Championships. Various groups from the parish use the Club for meetings and functions. It has recently been extensively refurbished.

4.6.6.3. Swarland Sports Club

This opened in 2001 after residents obtained grants and held fund-raising events to pay for a new pavilion, all-weather tennis courts, 5-a-side football pitch and a bowling green. The facilities are also available for private functions, as a venue for Swarland Show tearoom, events such as the annual firework display, and indoor activities.

4.6.6.4. Swarland Playground

When Swarland Sports Club was completed in 2001, the re-instatement of the original children's play equipment, taken down as part of the development, was felt not to be the best option. A group of parents formed SOS (Swarland Outdoor Scheme), with the aim of providing up-to-date, high quality play opportunities for younger children within Vyner Park. Working with the Parish Council and others, SOS made many grant applications and held fund-raising social events, which not only raised money but also brought people together. The new playground was finally opened on the 24th April 2004. It was made possible by the members of the local community who supported the fund-raising events, as well as Awards for All, The Community Foundation, The Countryside Agency, Groundwork UK, Kavli, Newton on the Moor and Swarland Parish Council, Northumberland County Council, RAF Boulmer, Swarland Fun Club, UK Coal, and the William Leech Charity.

Responsibility for management of the Playground formally passed from SOS to the Parish Council on 16th May 2007, along with all the residual funds held by SOS. These funds were transferred on the understanding that they and any interest accruing would be ring-fenced and spent solely for the benefit of Swarland Playground.

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4.6.6.5. Swarland Show

Swarland Show was revived in its current form in 1998 after an absence of many years, and is normally held on the last Saturday in August. The emphasis is on parish involvement. At its core is the flower, vegetable and produce exhibition, complemented by a range of craft, photography and children's classes. Free children's field activities encourage maximum participation by families. Attractions also include live music, a dog show, stalls, a car boot sale, competitions such as welly-hoying and crazy bowls, a raffle with first-class prizes and the tearoom. Though there are a few stalls provided by "outsiders" for variety, most represent the various activity groups in the village. The Show is financially self-supporting and draws in visitors from all over the area. The 2010 show proved to be a great success with a significant increase in numbers compared to the previous year.

4.6.6.6. Swarland Village Action

Swarland Village Action (SVA) was set up in 1999 to promote cooperation between community groups and interested individuals, in areas not immediately covered by the Parish Council or other agencies, for the general benefit of the community in the village of Swarland and its surrounding area. Committee membership is open to all local groups and to elected individuals who live or work in the area of benefit. Since its formation the group has established a bi-monthly parish newsletter (The Column) and raised funds to carry out various projects, for example: undertaking the refurbishment of The Square in Swarland; providing dog-litter bins, new signage and a new village notice board; facilitating the improvement of various routes through Swarland Woods and Percy Wood; and initiating the parish spring-clean each year.

4.6.6.7. Village Halls

Both the Jubilee Hall in Newton on the Moor and Swarland Village Hall (SVH) are Grade II* Listed Buildings and contain a range of facilities, including kitchens. As centrally located Listed Buildings both have very limited potential for alteration and enlargement. SVH is owned by the Parish Council and run as a charity by a small management committee. Its refurbishment has recently been completed. Currently the Jubilee Hall is privately owned and leased to a small management committee for community use. Its kitchen is being upgraded. Both halls are available for hire in full or in part for public or private meetings or functions. They are used by the Parish Council, local groups, individuals and local authorities for a range of activities.

4.6.7. Local Groups and Activities

In addition to the more commercially focussed social enterprises, our parish also supports a number of other active clubs and groups which generate a wide range of social and fund-raising events. These include:

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- Swarland Evangelical Church and Children's Good News Club
- Rainbows
- Brownies
- Craft Group
- Bingo
- Allotment Holders
- Drama Group
- Carpet Bowls Clubs in both Swarland and Newton on the Moor
- Leek Club
- Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group
- Swarland Woods Amenity Group
- Newton on the Moor and Swarland Horse Users Group

4.7. Transport Links

Swarland and Newton on the Moor are served principally by Arriva service 501 / 505 which operates between Alnwick and Newcastle. (There are additional services to / from Berwick, but the option to travel there directly is very limited, even in the summer.) The service through the parish is currently (October 2010) two buses to Newcastle (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) and three to Alnwick (one in the morning and two in the afternoon – times may vary). There is no Sunday service. Additional schools services operate to Rothbury, Alnwick, Morpeth, and Ashington daily, though these can be very busy, unsurprisingly, with scholars. They are timed to facilitate term-time school hours' travel only. Additionally a Northumberland County Council (NCC) subsidised service operates from Rothbury (extended to Alwinton via Swarland on Thursdays) through to Alnwick on Tuesdays and Thursdays, though practically speaking only Alnwick is a destination. Limited time is available in Alnwick in order to return on this service.

In the recent past Arriva offered more options on daytime services, but these were withdrawn in October 2007. Another service connecting Rothbury with Alnwick via Swarland and Longframlington was also withdrawn then. A much better service

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(one per hour) serves Felton, and also operates on Sundays at a similar frequency, where some of the journeys are supported by NCC.

The Arriva bus service is under considerable commercial pressure from its parent company. It lost, as of April 2010, the subsidy from NCC. Simultaneously, the Alnwick schools contract held by Arriva was withdrawn by NCC following a bidding process which ruled against the incumbent. This means that Arriva is looking for a higher loading on its current service than at present. The current projection is therefore that the Arriva service may be withdrawn completely, leaving just schools services to Ashington / Morpeth / Alnwick and the NCC-subsidised Tuesday / Thursday service to Alnwick.

Alnmouth mainline railway station is situated about seven miles to the east of the parish, but there are no direct public transport links. It does however provide free car parking and a very good train service both locally and further afield.

4.8. Local Governance

Newton on the Moor and Swarland Parish Council (PC) has 12 councillors (seven representing Swarland and five Newton on the Moor). The next election is due to take place in May 2013 and before then, any councillor leaving the PC will be replaced by the co-option process, by which applications from individuals wishing to join are voted on by existing councillors. However, should 10 or more residents request a PC election, this would be held before May 2013, at the startling cost to the PC of approximately £5,000.

The annual precept is £12,500 for the year 2011 / 12. This money pays for:

- grants towards the running costs of the two village halls
- maintenance costs of Vyner Park and the children's play area
- maintenance (shared with Felton PC) of Davison's Obelisk
- the Parish Council Clerk's salary and expenses
- insurance, including public liability
- a contribution (shared pro rata with Felton and Thirston PCs) towards the running costs of Felton Cemetery
- street furniture and grass cutting.

The PC can also give discretionary donations and payments to local groups, charities and activities perceived to benefit the community (such as The Column newsletter). Currently there is a surplus of about £25,000 held on account, approximately half of which is ring-fenced for future costs and commitments.

It owns a number of assets including Swarland Village Hall, The Square in Swarland, Vyner Park, the children's play area, and various street furnishings. It manages these on behalf, and for the benefit of, the people who live in the Parish. Newton on the Moor Village Hall, though privately owned, is partly supported by parish funds.

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Sub-committees help the PC discharge its responsibilities and duties to the local community. The Vyner Park Committee oversees the day-to-day management of the Park, and the Joint Cemetery Committee (with Felton and Thirston parishes) manages the cemetery.

The parish of Newton on the Moor and Swarland falls within the new unitary Northumberland County Council's Shilbottle electoral division which is represented by one County Councillor. Each County Councillor has a small budget with which to support appropriate improvements within his or her area.

4.9. Challenges and opportunities for our Parish Council

On 1 April 2009, Northumberland County Council and the six district councils merged to form a county-wide unitary authority which is responsible for a wide range of 'higher-level' council services such as highways, social care, education, waste collection / recycling, planning and fire / rescue services. At the same time the map of parish councils in Northumberland was completed, with the creation of new parish councils in south-east Northumberland.

The new authority covers 2,000 square miles. Its budget is large but there will be little room for manoeuvre financially for some years to come. It has only 67 councillors (compared with a total of 300 in the previous authorities). It has inherited a very mixed pattern of service-provision and organisational 'culture' across the county. This change provides new opportunities and challenges for our Parish Council (PC).

The PC will be consulted as a 'local voice' for a much wider range of council services than the current planning applications, street scene matters, public transport planning and a few other matters. It will need to find new ways of coping with a mounting volume of consultations, and of ascertaining and articulating the needs and opinions of different sections of its community, especially when some services affect only a small part of the whole community, or are shared across a wider territory (e.g. the planning of youth services, bus routes, business co-operation and tourism).

There will be a presumption that parish councils will be the providers of local amenities such as parks, allotments and burial facilities. This will not greatly affect our PC, as it already either runs or facilitates the provision of many of these local services (see **4.8.** above).

The PC will need to form alliances with neighbouring PCs and with other interests in new locality-wide community forums. These forums will address the bigger issues such as social and healthcare issues, emergency planning, and service centre management, as well as new opportunities. Already the formation of "clusters" of parish councils, such as the one our own PC has joined, indicates how this might work in practice.

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There could be greater demands on the PC's budget to support activities in the wider community, whether through direct expenditure or by giving grants. Therefore it will be increasingly important for the PC to communicate and work closely with a range of local partners, in order to develop a clearer understanding of priorities, respective roles and 'who should lead, on what'.

As the recent change of government at national level has highlighted, "localism" and the concept of "Big Society" are being promoted as the future direction of travel. This has the potential to devolve yet more decision making down to the level of parish council and below. It will be essential for local governance fully to reflect the needs of all parts of our community.

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5. WHAT WE DID

5.1. Getting the ball rolling

The Parish Plan Process started back in March 2007 and various scoping meetings took place over the summer. In September that year two events were held with the aim of engaging the wider community in the process: a Hog Roast in Swarland Village Hall and a Wine & Cheese evening in Jubilee Hall in Newton on the Moor. A Post-it note exercise was carried out to find out what people thought were “the Good, the Bad and the Ugly” things within the Parish (see Appendix 2).

Individuals were also encouraged via the parish newsletter to come up with issues that they felt needed to be tackled.

5.2. The Questionnaire

Over the winter of 2007 / 08, working with the outputs from the two parish events and guidance from various members of the Steering Group, Community Action Northumberland (CAN) and others, a questionnaire was produced (see Appendix 3) and sent out to all houses within the parish in April 2008. Additional copies were also made available. In the early stages of developing the Parish Plan, discussion took place over who could be allowed to take part in the parish survey and who, from Percy Wood for example, should be allowed to fill in a questionnaire. The thinking was that only those on the electoral register and paying council tax should be eligible (at the time of writing there were seven households in Percy Wood registered for council tax). In the event, and with the valuable help of Percy Wood residents, the Parish Plan process proceeded within the holiday park without preconditions, and five completed questionnaires were received. 13-18 year-olds were also given the full questionnaire, while under-12s were asked to state “Likes” and “Dislikes” about living in the parish.

The aim was to seek returns from individuals, including younger children and teenagers, rather than households.

The results from the questionnaire were evaluated for us by “Grass Roots”, a local consultancy.

5.3. The Analysis

Using the results of the questionnaire and other relevant information, a draft plan was drawn together. Additional research, into public transport provision and Swarland Woods in particular, was carried out.

A small editorial group then worked on the draft to produce the final plan. CAN was consulted on the draft, as were the members of the wider Steering Group.

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5.4. Plan Launch

Two versions of the Parish Plan were produced:

- a)** A full text and analysis for all key local decision makers.
- b)** A summary version for each household in the parish highlighting the key points.

Launch events were also carried out in Swarland and Newton on the Moor Village Halls.

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6. WHAT WE FOUND OUT: PARISH EVENTS

The individual comments made and recorded as part of the initial events are detailed in Appendix 2.

Prominent issues at each event were public transport provision, the state of roads including the A1, traffic, local amenities, access, entertainment and the environment. In Swarland, the need for a youth club and better child-care provision also emerged. Many helpful individual comments were made.

7. WHAT WE FOUND OUT: LOCAL BUSINESS SURVEY

In total 18 businesses within Newton on the Moor and Swarland parish were contacted by telephone. A summary of the results follows:

7.1. Signage

Businesses felt there were insufficient directional signs and also had issues with ADC Planning about their policy on business signs, especially along the A1. This has a detrimental impact on the businesses as people are unable to find them. Old Swarland residents have issues re the lack of signage to Old Swarland, and once there, to indicate where the businesses are. Installation of more signs would be a great help.

7.2. Buses

The decrease in the bus service has had an impact on larger businesses within the parish as employees are unable to use public transport and have to rely on lifts from colleagues which reduces flexibility.

7.3. Broadband

The majority of businesses stated that broadband was an issue and they would like to see an improved, quicker, more reliable service to the parish.

7.4. Low Cost / Social Housing

The larger organisations identified low-cost housing as an important issue which should be addressed within the Parish Plan. The potential for using local people for employment would be increased if low-cost housing were available. The population of the parish is getting older, but younger people are unable to afford to live within the parish, thus losing the opportunity for local employment.

7.5. A1

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Concerns were raised about the future of the Swarland / Guyzance junction. If this were closed off, it would have a detrimental impact on some of the larger organisations and would put more pressure on other junctions and “B” roads.

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8. WHAT WE FOUND OUT: THE QUESTIONNAIRE

772 questionnaires were distributed (see Appendix 3 for a copy). This total was based on the 742 parish residents on the Register of Electors plus additional copies for those aged 13-18. We did not have the means accurately to estimate the number of this group, but we used a figure of 30. Under-13s were asked simply to list their likes and dislikes on their parents' questionnaire.

254 questionnaires were returned, a response rate of approximately 33%. This is good, and hopefully credibly represents the general views of the wider community.

Despite the good return rate, it can be seen from the analysis in the table below, that returns came from a higher proportion of Swarland residents and older age groups. This is a function of how the parish is made up and reflects the demographic profile of its residents. This profile and bias needs to be taken into consideration when drawing any conclusions from the questionnaire results.

Analysing the individual responses from different parts of the parish and from the lower age groups has to be treated with caution as the number of responses in each individual sample is small. If the views and needs of the minority groups are to be considered, the needs of the smaller sample groups have to be balanced with some judgement against those of the dominant sample groups. It is not simply a case of the majority view being that which takes priority.

The following sections work through and summarise the results of the questionnaire. The full results can be found in the appendices.

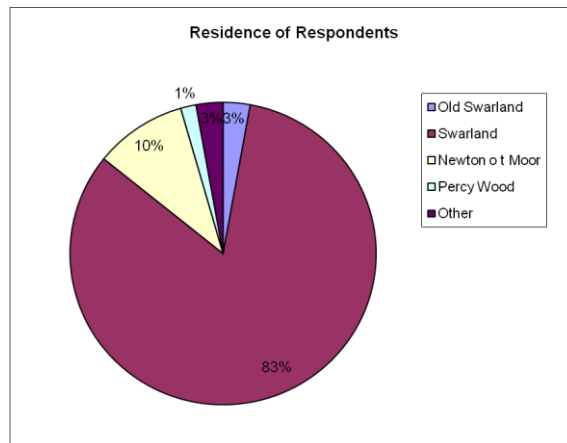
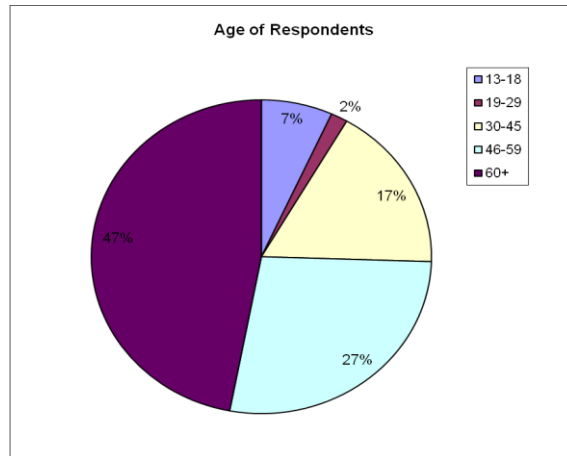
8.1. BASIC DETAILS:

A summary of responses broken down by gender, age and location is detailed below. Please note that not all respondents recorded their gender so the overall figures in the table are lower than the 254 total responses received.

Male and Female	13-18	19-29	30-45	46-59	60+	Total
Old Swarland			2	2	2	6
Swarland	16	3	36	59	89	203
Newton o-t Moor	1	1	2	4	16	24
Percy Wood			1	1	3	5
Other			3	3	3	9
Total	17	4	44	69	113	247
Female						
Old Swarland			1	1		2
Swarland	7	1	19	28	44	99
Newton o-t Moor	1		1	2	7	11
Percy Wood				1	3	4
Other			1	2	1	4
Total	8	1	22	34	55	120

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Male						
Old Swarland			1	1	2	4
Swarland	9	2	15	30	39	95
Newton o-t Moor		1	1	2	7	11
Percy Wood						
Other				1	2	3
Total	9	3	17	34	50	113

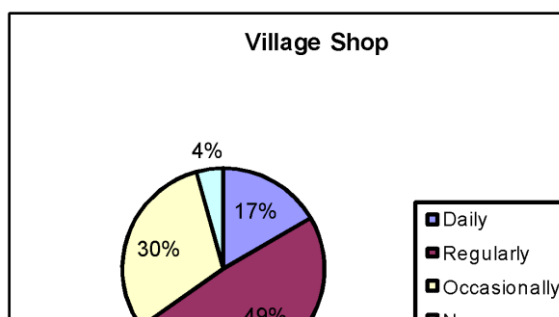


8.2. AMENITIES AND FACILITIES

Residents were asked which of the following facilities they used and how frequently.

8.2.1. Village Shop

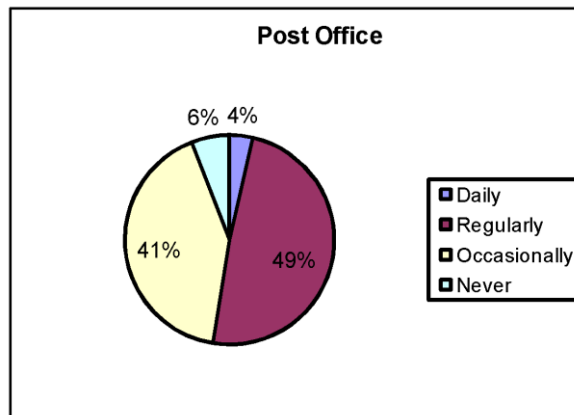
The village shop is a facility well-used by all sections of the parish. 66% of all respondents use it on a daily or regular basis and only 4% indicated that they never use it.



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8.2.2. Post Office

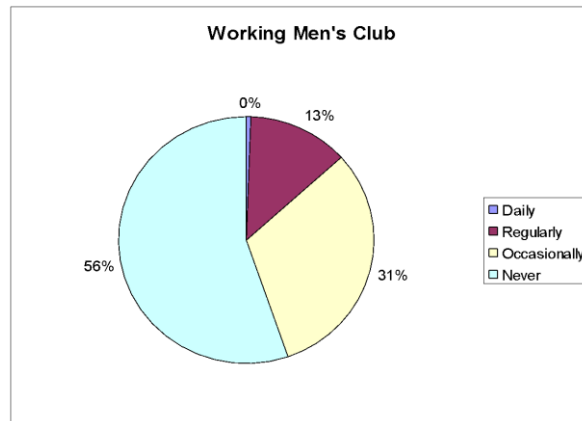
The Post Office is an integral part of the Village Shop. 52% of respondents use it on a daily or regular basis and only 6% report that they never use it. Responses indicate that the Post Office has a similar level of usage across all post-18 age groups. The 13-18 age group uses the facility less regularly (18% on a daily or regular basis) but only 24% said that they never use the facility.



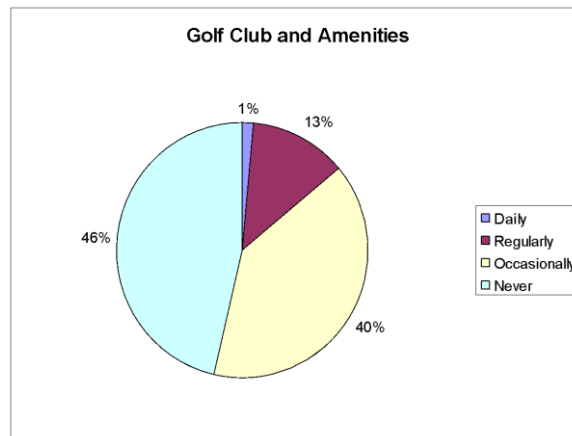
8.2.3. Swarland Club

Though 13% of all respondents use Swarland Club on a daily or regular basis and 31% occasionally use it, the 30-45 age group respondents provide a variation from the norm with 77% indicating that they never use this facility. Gender does not appear to be significant.

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8.2.4. Golf Club

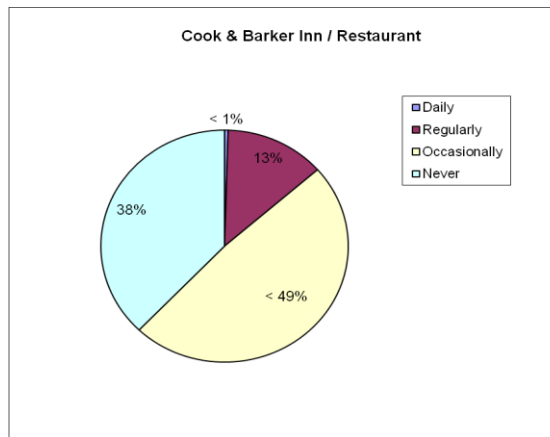


Overall use of the Golf Club is very similar to that of Swarland Club with 14% using the facility on a daily or regular basis and 40% occasionally using it. Some people use the club facilities to socialise, though they do not play golf.

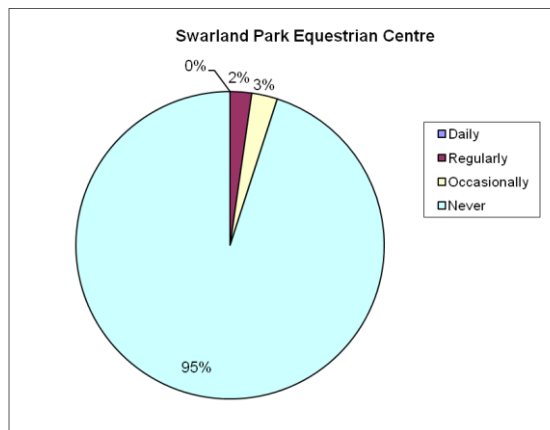
8.2.5. Cook & Barker Inn

The percentage of all respondents using this facility on a daily and regular basis is similar to Swarland Club and the Golf Club at 13% with 49% occasional usage. As would be expected, given the location of the pub / restaurant, the percentage of Newton on the Moor respondents using the facility is greater than all other areas of the parish, with 48% of them using the facility regularly and 43% occasionally.

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8.2.6. Swarland Park Equestrian Centre

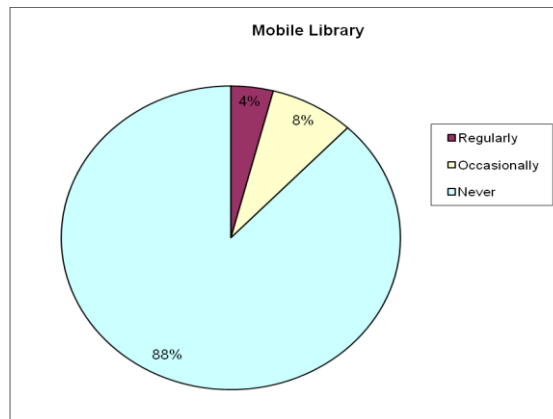


2% of respondents use this facility on a regular basis with an additional 3% occasional users. It would be impossible to draw any further conclusions regarding age groups, gender or location within the parish given the low number of respondents.

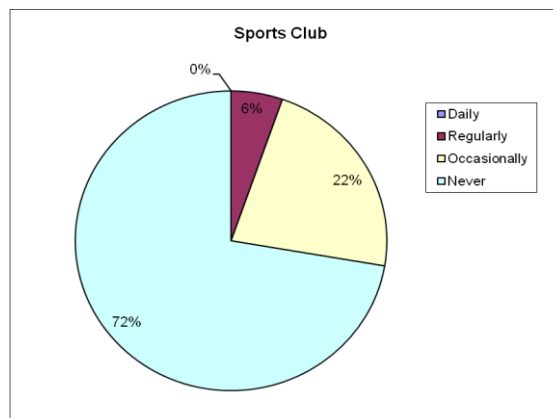
8.2.7. Mobile Library

The library van stops for 30 minutes both in Swarland and Newton on the Moor fortnightly on Monday mornings. Though 12% of all respondents use it either regularly or occasionally, 18% of the over-60s do so, making them the main user group. Only Swarland and Newton on the Moor respondents use this facility, probably reflecting that the vehicle stops only at these two locations.

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8.2.8. Sports Club

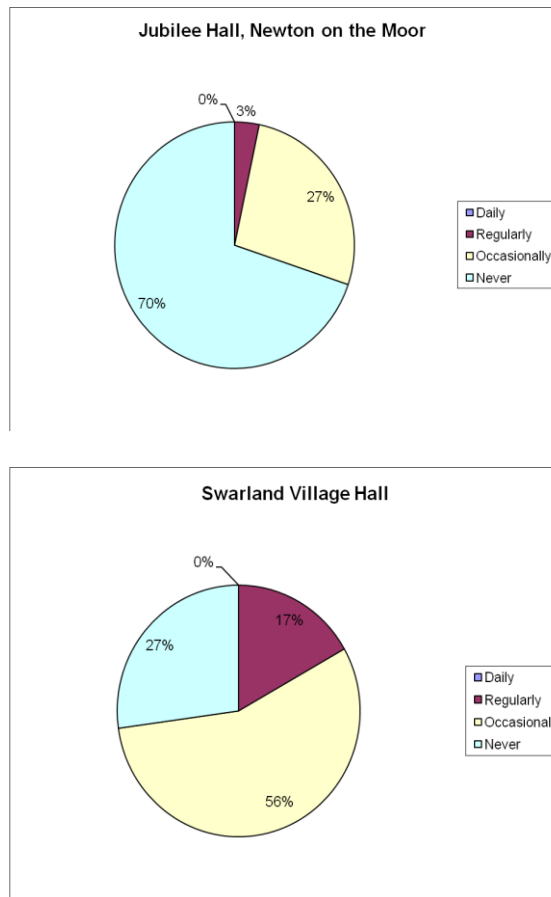


Of all respondents, 27% use the facility on a regular or occasional basis. Of these, by far the greatest users are the 13-18 age group with 62% indicating that they use it on a regular or occasional basis. As age increases there is a proportional decrease in frequent use, falling to 12% of the over-60s.

8.2.9. Village Halls

The response indicates that, of the two village halls, Swarland Village Hall has a higher usage than Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor. 73% of all respondents use Swarland Village Hall on a regular or occasional basis, compared with 30% for the Jubilee Hall. Whilst 67% of Newton on the Moor respondents use Swarland Village Hall on a regular or occasional basis, only 23% of Swarland respondents use the Jubilee Hall. Eight comments specifically related to the need for improvements to Swarland Village Hall.

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8.2.10. Individual comments

A list of the suggestions and comments made for the Amenities and Facilities section can be found in Appendix 4.

8.2.11. Key points about Amenities and Facilities

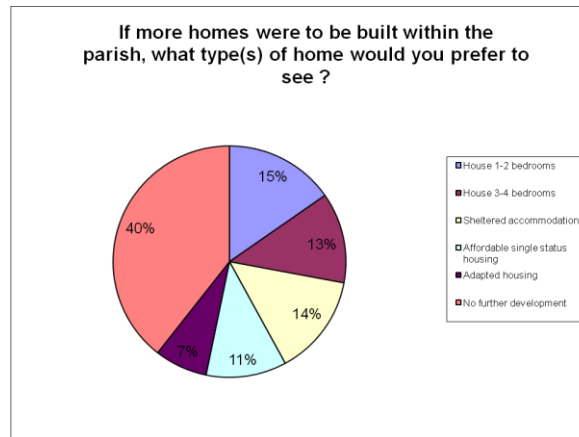
- The Post Office, Village Shop and Village Halls are used by a large proportion of respondents, and there are some suggestions that Swarland Village Hall should be improved.
- The Club, Pub and Golf Club are important social facilities for the local community.
- The Sports Club is regularly used by just over 25% of respondents. Importantly 62% of the 13-18 age group indicated that they use it.
- The Mobile Library is used by 12% of all respondents, the over-60s being the heaviest users.
- There is a clear interest in additional social events (31 comments) or other ways of bringing people together. Music, dances and evening classes are the main areas of interest. Some activities already exist in both Newton on the Moor and Swarland.
- Facilities for young people clearly need further evaluation, with 9 respondents suggesting a youth club or other focus.
- A welcome pack for new residents would be a very good idea.

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8.3. HOUSING

8.3.1. Residents' housing development preferences



60% of all respondents were in favour of some kind of further development. A minority of Swarland respondents were the least supportive. There was no significant difference between male and female responses.

There was a slight preference overall in favour of building 1-2 bedroomed properties.

The 45-59 age group was most supportive of development (70% in favour), which also represents the second largest group of respondents overall. This group is most likely to have teenagers or young adults finishing school or university, and looking to start work and become independent, or are themselves looking to downsize as they approach retirement.

The 30-45s and over-60s were least in favour of development (48% and 47% respectively). The latter age group was also by far the largest group of respondents overall.

8.3.2. Individual comments:

- Housing development needs to be in line with local employment opportunities to avoid the parish becoming a cluster of retirement or commuter communities.
- All housing should be subject to restrictions to avoid abuse of holiday homes.
- Sheltered accommodation is unlikely to be commercially viable, but lack of services for older people means they must be mobile to remain in the parish villages and hamlets in later life.
- No further housing should be allowed until existing drainage and sewerage is upgraded.

8.3.3. Previous Housing Studies

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8.3.3.1. Newton on the Moor & Swarland Parish Council Surveys

Newton on the Moor and Swarland Parish Council carried out housing needs surveys in the 1980s and 1994. The 1994 study concluded that a number of households were not satisfied with their current provision, and seemed to have a genuine need to move house. The greatest need clearly came from younger people in the villages who wished to set up independently from their parents. A small number of older residents wished to move to small, specially adapted properties. However, it was recommended that in light of the relatively small need which the study found, and which the parish could potentially support, further investigations needed to be carried out to ensure that those appearing to indicate need would in practice consider occupying any properties built.

At that time it was thought possible to accommodate five or six small houses on Vyner Park land owned by the community. The concept of selling off community land met with some opposition from local residents, although many were in principle in favour of affordable housing provision in the parish, subject to appropriate design and location.

8.3.3.2. Parish Council / Community Council for Northumberland

In July 2004 a further housing needs survey was carried out by the Community Council for Northumberland (now Community Action Northumberland) on behalf of the Parish Council.

This survey generated 76 returns based on one form being provided per household, giving a return of 36.9%. The survey did seem to demonstrate a clear need for affordable housing in the parish, but after wide debate and a public session with Alnwick District Council's Housing Officer it was concluded that the findings as they stood did not give specific information with which to proceed. Help would be required from Alnwick District Council to identify potential sites, and further survey work would be required.

It was also concluded that the Parish Council would have to take the lead and undertake any further survey(s).

8.3.3.3. Alnwick District Housing Needs Survey 2008

Alnwick is a rural district, and parish surveys to assess housing need were carried out in eight parishes during 2007 and 2008. To ensure that data less than three years old was available in all parishes, Alnwick District Council formally commissioned a Housing Needs Survey of the remaining 27 parishes within the District. This work provides much-needed information to assess present and future housing needs within the Alnwick District at a time when local government reorganisation will see responsibility for this pass to the new unitary authority.

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Population and household change are significant features when measuring housing needs over the next 10 years or so. ADC's survey provides the following indication of future population trends within the District between 2008 and 2031:

- A population increase of 14.2%.
- In common with many other districts a fall in the number of people aged up to 44 and a rise in people over 65.
- A reduction in the 45-64 year old population which will be changed only by in-migration of younger households, i.e. 20-45 age group.
- No net change in the 20-29 age group, who will have an impact on the formation of households.
- An increase of 5,600 people in the 65+ age group.
- An increase of 3,400 in the 75+ age group.
- An 81% increase in the retired population.
- The survey also identified that 61.9% of those with a disability are over the age of 60.

For the purposes of the survey sample validity, Newton on the Moor and Swarland were grouped together with the parishes of Longframlington, Felton and Acklington, to form the southern part of the Alnwick District. There was a 26.8% response rate from Newton on the Moor and Swarland Parish.

The type, size and tenure requirements for moving households by sub-area are, for the southern area (of which Swarland and Newton on the Moor are part), as follows:

Private Sector

Property type	Owner occupied	Private rented	Tied to employment	Total
1 Bed Flat	1	0	0	1
2 Bed Flat	2	0	0	2
2 Bed Bungalow	15	0	0	15
2 Bed House	11	0	0	11
3 Bed Bungalow	1	0	0	1
3 Bed House	9	0	0	9
4 Bed Bungalow	2	0	0	2
4 Bed House	10	0	0	10
TOTAL	51	0	0	51

Affordable Sector

Property type	Council Rent	Housing Ass rented	Housing Ass shared ownership	Total
1 Bed Flat	12	0	3	15
1 Bed Bungalow	1	8	0	9

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2 Bed Flat	6	11	0	17
2 Bed Bungalow	5	3	0	8
2 Bed House	21	0	0	21
3+ Bed House	16	0	0	16
TOTAL	61	22	3	86

To consider what this means specifically for the parish would entail further analysis of the data obtained in the survey, as results for the specific needs at parish level were not provided.

8.3.4. Key Points about Housing

- a) 60% of respondents were in favour of some form of further development with a slight preference for 1 and 2 bed properties.
- b) The 46-59 year old age group is most supportive of new development with the 30-45s and over-60s the least supportive.
- c) Upgrading sewerage and drainage systems and their capacity throughout Swarland to mitigate repeated flooding is essential before further development.
- d) The need for affordable housing within the parish has been considered in the past, but the process has not been fully concluded.
- e) The recent housing needs survey carried out by Alnwick District Council in 2008 provides the latest and most comprehensive analysis of housing need within the district and groups of parishes within it. However, additional work will be required to work out the specific needs of Newton on the Moor and Swarland parish in relation to other parishes.
- f) The findings of the Alnwick District Housing Survey as to the likely 81% increase in the retired population and the fact that 61.9% of those with disability will be over 60, raise questions about housing-type needs in the parish.

8.4. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Residents were asked to indicate their satisfaction with the following aspects of the parish:

8.4.1. Footpaths

58% of respondents indicated satisfaction. This was higher in Swarland (59%) than in Newton on the Moor (50%). Satisfaction was higher still in Old Swarland and amongst Percy Wood residents (83%) but from the latter only a small number of responses were received.

Clearly where respondents live in the parish and which footpaths they use regularly will have some bearing on their level of satisfaction.

8.4.2. Pavements

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52% of respondents indicated satisfaction. Despite there being very few pavements in Swarland, satisfaction was higher amongst Swarland residents (58%) than amongst residents of Newton on the Moor (42%). The age groups 13-18 and 19-29 found the pavements most satisfactory (65% and 75% respectively) but the latter is a very small sample. Least satisfied (47%) were the over-60s.

As with footpaths, where respondents live and which pavements they use on a regular basis will be relevant to their levels of satisfaction. There may also be some confusion between the definition of “footpath” and “pavement”.

8.4.3. Rights of Way

74% of respondents expressed satisfaction; those from Newton on the Moor were less satisfied at 68% whilst those in the 19-29 age group and Percy Wood respondents were 100% satisfied but represent relatively small samples.

8.4.4. The state of hedgerows, trees, forestry walks, bridle paths and open spaces around the parish

Whilst 73% of all respondents expressed satisfaction, percentages varied widely between different parts of the parish and different age groups. Satisfaction was 86% in Old Swarland, 74% in Swarland, and 52% in Newton on the Moor, and 88% of the 13-18s, 84% of those aged 30-45, and 69% of the over-60s.

8.4.5. Projects to enhance the appearance of the villages

88% of all respondents were in favour of this type of project, 91% of those from Newton on the Moor. The greatest interest came from the age groups 30-45 (95%) and 45-59 (91%).

8.4.6. Taking part in heritage and conservation issues

Half of all respondents were interested in this type of project. 68% of respondents in Newton on the Moor, 48% in Swarland and 43% in Old Swarland. The smallest number of responses returned was from the 19-29 age group, whilst Percy Wood respondents showed the greatest interest.

8.4.7. Group walks around the parish

71% responded negatively to this question and this attitude was reflected in all age groups and all parts of the parish with the exception of Percy Wood respondents (though with just six responses theirs was a very small sample).

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8.4.8. Support for an entry into Britain in Bloom

Only 44% of all respondents were in favour of this. However, 59% of 13-18s, 60% of 30-45s, and an unmeasurable percentage of Percy Wood respondents (small sample) liked the idea. 52% of those in favour were female.

8.4.9 Need for more allotment space

69% responded negatively to this question, possibly because many residents have large gardens and don't need an allotment. However the 31% who would like to see more provision are a significant minority.

8.4.10. Provision of dog waste bins

Only dog-owners were required to answer this. 55% of respondents were satisfied. This included the over-60s, those aged 30-45, Swarland respondents and male respondents. 58% of those aged 46-59 were not satisfied, nor were 62% of the respondents from Newton on the Moor, 75% of Old Swarland respondents and 53% of all females.

8.4.11. Specific comments

A full list of the ideas, suggestions and comments made for the Natural Environment section can be found in Appendix 5. However, by grouping them around specific themes and trends, the following main areas of concern were identified (with numbers of comments in brackets):

- Improvements to Vyner Park (20).
- Improvements to Public Rights of Way (19). Improved access to Swarland Woods (13), and to other parts of the parish (2).
- Signage and mapping of Public Rights of Way (3).
- The enhancement, protection and management of the tree belt and the trees within Percy Wood Country Retreat (13). The protection of habitat for Red Squirrels (10). Flower planting within the parish, particularly at the entrances to the main villages (9).
- The built environment (6); repairs to the Fountain / Pant in Newton on the Moor and to the Listed circular cattle shelters on Swarland Golf Course (3).
- Improving roads within the Parish (17), street lights and the reduction of light pollution (6), and improvements to pavements (5).
- The general impact of the Percy Wood Country Retreat (7).
- More dog bins, particularly at the north end of The Avenue [which has already been provided]. The question of the positioning of dog bins at Newton on the Moor was also raised.

8.4.12. Additional information

8.4.12.1. Long-term Role of the Public Forest Estate in England

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In July 2009 the Forestry Commission carried out a public consultation into the long-term role of the Public Forest Estate in England and how it is managed, how to add greater value through public ownership, and how this could be paid for.

As Swarland Woods represent such an important asset to the local community, the Parish Council made the following formal response to the consultation:

“The Parish Council very much welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to this important consultation on the future of our forests and woodland.

The parish is very fortunate to contain Swarland Woods which are part of the Forest Estate in Northumberland. In a survey recently carried out in support of developing our Parish Plan, it is clear that enjoyment of the access opportunities offered by Swarland Woods are an important asset to the local community. As a Parish Council with a very local focus we feel very competent to respond to the consultation from that local perspective, but less competent in relation to some of the broader questions asked. Therefore whilst we broadly support the range of priorities that are being considered in this consultation, our response is focussed on the long term role of Swarland Woods.

The key point is that priorities will not be the same across the board; each priority or mix of priorities will need to be assessed separately for different parts of the Estate.

In considering Swarland Woods the two priorities are:

- a) Local participation in decision making.*
- b) Generating social benefits.*

Many people enjoy Swarland Woods for walking, exercising dogs, horse riding and watching wildlife. For many long-term residents, the historical built heritage connection to the former Swarland Hall is important. In some cases just knowing the woods are there and accessible is enough. In the recent Parish Plan survey, whilst 73% of respondents indicated satisfaction with the Public Rights of Way in the parish, improving access to Swarland Woods was one theme that was clearly highlighted as needing further consideration.

Local community liaison arrangements are in the very early stages of being setup up. It is very important that these are actively supported by the Forestry Commission, and that the views of the community as a whole are taken into account.

The Parish Council's concerns

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There are real concerns in our parish that further development of Swarland Woods for the purposes of tourism may take place in the future.

Part of the original Forest Estate in the parish was some years ago sold and since then has been gradually cleared of trees and developed as a residential caravan site. From a few caravans originally, we now have a site within the original licence boundary with approaching 550 units and which is open 11 months of the year. Alongside this development a golf course has also been created.

Clearly any further expansion of tourist accommodation into the remaining Forest Estate would not be appropriate. Further commercial development in Swarland Woods would greatly detract from the social benefits currently provided, not only to local people, but also to those visitors who stay in the existing caravan site.

The Parish Council would be very pleased to work with the Forestry Commission to ensure the future of Swarland Woods not only as functioning commercial forest, but also as an asset for the community as a whole and for wildlife.”

8.4.12.2. Swarland Woods Amenity Group

This group has recently been established and is affiliated to Swarland Village Action. It is composed of individuals who aim to see the woodland safeguarded in its present form and under appropriate stewardship. The group is keen to engage the wider community by facilitating improved access to the woodland, amenities (such as seats) and conserving its flora and fauna. [The group has now achieved significant footpath repairs with limited upgrading by NCC's Highways Department].

Active consideration is being given to a re-instatement of the Swarland Hall ornamental lake to a condition of open water as it was some 20 years ago. In a recent survey sent out with the parish newsletter to all households, 49 positive and four negative responses for the project were received. By its nature, grant-funding will be required and a process to drive this, therefore the outcome is still very much open.

8.4.12.3. Newton on the Moor and Swarland Horse Users Group

This group has recently formed under the broader umbrella of the British Horse Society. It seeks to bring together and represent the needs of horse riders within Newton on the Moor, Swarland and the surrounding areas. It will work to promote responsible use of the public bridleway network, forestry access provision within the parish, and seek to develop additional opportunities for off-road riding and walking, which will link with existing bridleways and hopefully provide circular routes.

8.4.13. Key Points about the Natural Environment

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- Respondents of all areas and age groups seem to appreciate the rural qualities the parish has to offer and would be in favour of projects to enhance the appearance of the villages. The well-being of Red Squirrels is very important to residents.
- A significant number of respondents wanted improvements to Vyner Park.
- Around half of respondents indicated an interest in taking part in heritage and conservation issues, but only 29% were interested in group walks around the village.
- 74% of respondents expressed satisfaction with public rights of way and 71% were satisfied with the current state of hedgerows, trees, forestry walks, bridle paths and open spaces around the parish. Nevertheless, there were a number of comments relating to improving public rights of way, protecting trees, and improving access within Swarland Woods.
- Just over half of respondents were against supporting a Britain in Bloom entry.
- There would appear to be relatively little support for more allotment space. However, those who need it feel very strongly about it, so this area would need further consideration and research.

8.5. ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Energy provision

Swarland and Newton on the Moor have National Grid-connected mains electricity supplies. Some residents have installed sustainable generating facilities such as solar panels, but there are no community-based projects. Newton on the Moor is connected to the mains gas system, but Swarland is not. About 20 years ago an initiative to connect Swarland to mains gas failed, despite 80% of households being in favour, due to the high cost (£1,345 per household) of initial connection. Many Swarland residents currently use heating oil, with a few using the more expensive LPG.

The Parish Plan survey posed questions re the following:

8.5.1. Sustainable energy sources

When asked if sustainable energy sources for the parish needed to be investigated, 69% of all respondents said yes. It is worth noting that 75% of under-60s agreed.

8.5.2. Mains gas

The provision of mains gas where it is not already available would be welcomed by 76% of respondents, who were, predictably, all from Swarland.

8.5.3. Improvement of recycling facilities

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Response to this question was almost 100% and people felt strongly enough about it to make a total of 305 comments about possible improvements. 23 comments related to provision of a home bottle collection and 11 suggested placing all recycling facilities in one area. Recycling was clearly important.

8.5.4. Specific Comments.

A full list of comments can be found in Appendix 6.

8.5.5. Key points about Energy and Infrastructure

- There is strong support overall for recommending sustainable energy resources for the parish.
- 76% of respondents in the parish support the provision of mains gas; it would seem a business case could be forthcoming.
- There is a slightly greater demand for sustainable energy sources from the under-60s (75%) than the over-60s (50%).
- Respondents overwhelmingly wish to see improvements in recycling facilities within the village.

8.6. TRAFFIC

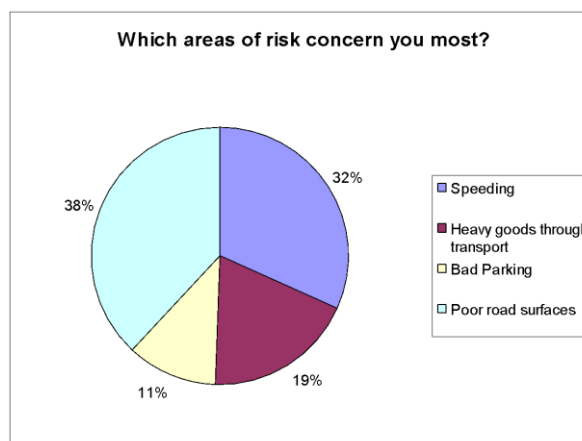
8.6.1. Road safety

When asked whether they felt safe on roads and pavements in the parish, 58% of respondents said yes and 42% said no. Younger age groups in general feel safer than the 46-59 and over-60 age groups.

8.6.2. Areas of risk

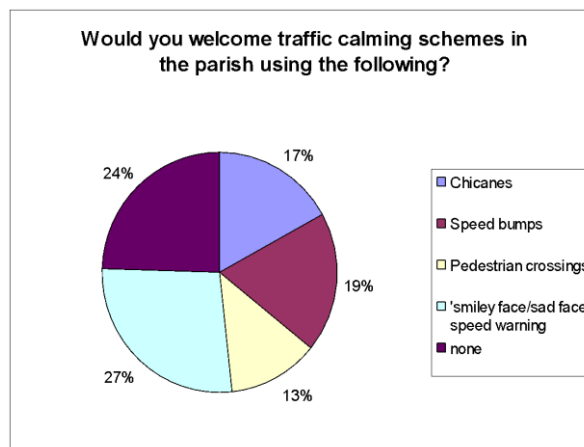
Poor road surfaces were considered the highest risk, closely followed by speeding, heavy goods transport (often affecting the condition of the road surfaces), and inconsiderate parking.

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The overall results were similar across the sectors, though in Newton on the Moor, heavy goods transport concerned 27% of respondents. 51% of the respondents in the 13-18 age group considered speeding to be the highest risk.

8.6.3. Traffic calming schemes



76% of respondents would welcome some form of traffic calming measures, while 24% preferred none. "Smiley faces" gained most votes. This result was broadly similar across the sectors, though in Newton on the Moor 48% of residents did not want any traffic calming measures. This was based on a relatively small sample size of 25 respondents.

8.6.4. Specific comments

A list of individual comments can be found in Appendix 7. However, of the 168 comments listed, it's worth grouping here the issues most mentioned:

- Support for traffic calming measures (17). One respondent supported the use of speed guns by members of the community.

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- Support for 20mph speed restrictions in residential streets (12)
- More police activity to tackle speeding (5)
- The need to resurface Leamington Lane [which is now completed] (7)
- The need for a footpath along Leamington Lane (9)
- Lack of pavements, footpaths and verges (7)
- Lack of a footpath between Percy Wood and the School (3) and along Park Road (3)
- Improvements in general road maintenance, including the problem of deep gullies forming at road edges and the need for kerbs.

During the summer of 2010 there was a marked increase in the amount of heavy farm traffic passing through Newton on the Moor from early morning till late at night. Attention was also drawn to the narrowness of the footpath to the west of Newton on the Moor as far as Newton Hall drive. Encroaching vegetation from the untrimmed hedge makes this worse.

8.6.5. Key points about Traffic

- a) A significant number of people do not feel safe on our roads and pavements; this is more marked in the older age groups.
- b) The condition of our roads and speeding are of most concern.
- c) There is a need to improve footpaths and pavements, particularly on Leamington Lane, Park Road, and to the west of Newton on the Moor.
- d) Heavy goods vehicles and more recently heavy farm traffic passing through Newton on the Moor are of particular concern.
- e) Traffic calming measures would be supported by the majority of respondents.

8.7. TRANSPORT

8.7.1. Reliance on public transport

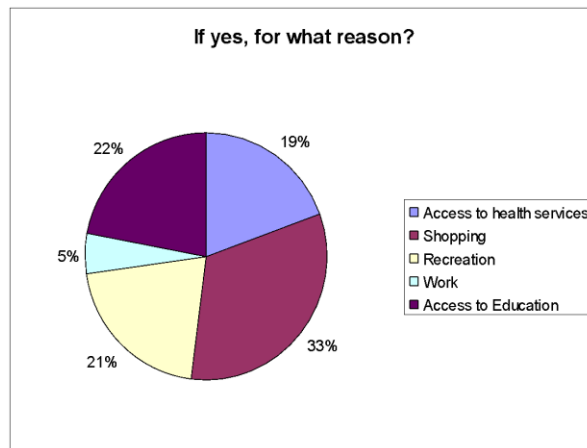
When asked whether they relied on public transport, 15% of respondents said yes (of which 18% were adult female, 12% were adult male). There were marked age profile differences in the answers however: 75% of respondents aged 13-18 answered yes, mostly for education, though only 5% were in this age bracket. A similar proportion aged 19-29 relied on it, mainly for recreation, though the sample set was very small (about 2%). Reliance on public transport was low for those aged 30-60 (on average 4%), but higher for the over-60s (14%).

The survey also considered where people lived, and this had a marked effect on responses. 13% of Newton on the Moor and 15% of Swarland respondents did rely on public transport. Residents in Old Swarland, Percy Wood and those otherwise not in the main villages did not rely on it at all.

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This is not too surprising, as the current bus route serves only Newton on the Moor and Swarland.

A breakdown of user needs is shown below.



8.7.2. More regular bus service

64% of respondents, 71% of whom were female, said they would use a more regular bus service if it were available. Over 80% of respondents in the 13-18 age group supported the idea.

8.7.3. Transport link to Felton and the main bus route

58% of respondents would be in favour of this, including over 80% of the 13-18s.

8.7.4. Car share scheme

25 respondents (11%) indicated that they would like to participate in a car share scheme, whereas 210 would not.

8.7.5. Specific comments

A list of comments made in this section can be found in Appendix 8. A link to Felton and timing of services were priorities.

8.7.6. Key points about Transport

- a) A significant number of respondents rely on public transport.
- b) The desire for more buses is clearly indicated.
- c) Those most reliant are the 13-18 year age group and the over-60s.
- d) Only a relatively small number of respondents were interested in a car sharing scheme, but this would not preclude this activity taking place.

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8.7.7. Additional research carried out

Because of the importance of public transport and the continued decline in regular bus services through Swarland and Newton on the Moor villages, further research was carried out.

The Parish Plan Steering Group held a meeting with Transport in North Northumberland (TINN) and from that carried out a further survey to assess the demand for services they could potentially provide, namely: development of a minibus user group, or a door-to-door pick-up scheme for those elderly people who did not have access to alternative provision.

The response to this survey was very low and no conclusions could be drawn from it. In ongoing discussions in various forums it became apparent that, for elderly members of the community, the fact that bus travel was free was an important consideration. But that particular public subsidy was not transferable to other potential services such as those TINN could provide.

The next stage, in the light of further decline in main bus services, was to carry out a user survey (Autumn 2009) to determine when people would like to have access to a bus service. This was taken to Arriva, the service provider, and a public meeting was held in the Parish.

The user survey established the following:

- a) There is some scope for a commuter service in its current or similar form.
- b) The most requested service was for a 10.00 departure to Alnwick and Morpeth / Newcastle on weekdays.
- c) A service from Alnwick at 13.00 on weekdays was also requested.
- d) Surrounding villages enjoy varying levels of bus service. Figures for daily weekday services are: Shilbottle 63 services, Felton 23, Swarland five, Newton on the Moor six (since reduced to five) and Boulmer three.

Following the public meeting with Arriva and NCC, the latter asked for details of the service provision desired. These were compiled using the survey results. NCC took a broad view to cut all bus subsidies south of Alnwick on weekdays. This resulted in the immediate loss of the 23.45 from Newcastle, with the long-term outlook for all Arriva services now very poor.

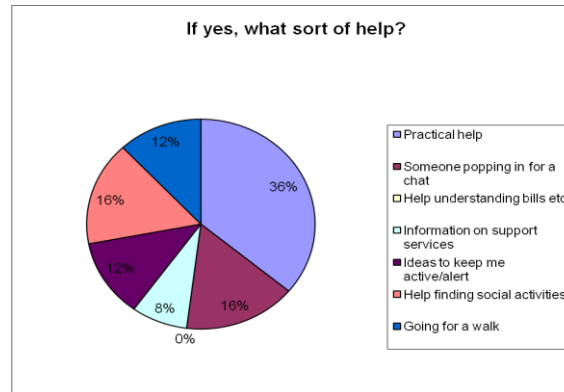
However, a subsidised NCC service to Alnwick, which already ran on Thursdays, was also introduced on Tuesdays, thereby meeting directly, on two days in the week, the needs expressed in the survey. The NCC services are due to run until the 31st of March 2011, when they too will be reviewed.

8.8. COMMUNITY LINKS

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8.8.1 Care and help within the parish

Residents were asked whether anyone in their household needed help due to illness, age or disability and whether it could be provided within the parish. Only respondents from Swarland indicated a need with 5% of the 46-59 and over-60s age groups indicating that help is required. Practical help was seen to be most valuable.



8.8.2. Recreational and social needs

Residents were asked whether they felt recreational and social needs were being met within the parish for the following groups:

8.8.2.1 Senior citizens

60% of respondents aged over 60 reported that their recreational / social needs were not being met. However, breakdown of the figures by age group suggests that the younger the age group the less the perception of need.

	Needs are met	
	No	Yes
13-18 years	18%	82%
19-29 years	50%	50%
29-45 years	27%	73%
46-59 years	42%	58%
Over-60s	60%	40%

8.8.2.2. People with hearing / sight / mobility difficulties

A similar pattern of responses is found for people with hearing / sight / mobility difficulties, but a distressingly high number of the over-60s were dissatisfied.

	Needs are met	
	No	Yes
13-18 years	50%	50%
19-29 years	50%	50%

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29-45 years	62%	38%
46-59 years	82%	18%
Over-60s	90%	10%

It could be interpreted that the younger the age group, the less they understand the needs of the elderly and vulnerable.

8.8.2.3. Young people 13-18

71% of respondents recorded that the social and recreational needs of this age group were not being met. In contrast to the perception that the younger age group have of senior citizens, 65% of the over-60s thought that the needs of the 13-18 age group were not being met, a very similar figure for that of the age group itself (67%).

8.8.2.4. Young people 0-12

Though respondents in the 13-18 and 19-29 age groups indicated 100% satisfaction that the social and recreational needs of the under-12s were being met, it is clear that as the age of respondents increases, the perception of needs being met reduces. Nevertheless the overall response is very positive.

	Needs are met	
	No	Yes
13-18 years	0%	100%
19-29 years	0%	100%
29-45 years	35%	65%
46-59 years	41%	59%
Over-60s	43%	57%

8.8.2.5. Specific comments

It was an oversight that this section of the Parish Plan questionnaire did not specifically ask for any comments. However, some of the conclusions reached in the education section related to the needs of young people.

8.8.2.6. Key points Community Links

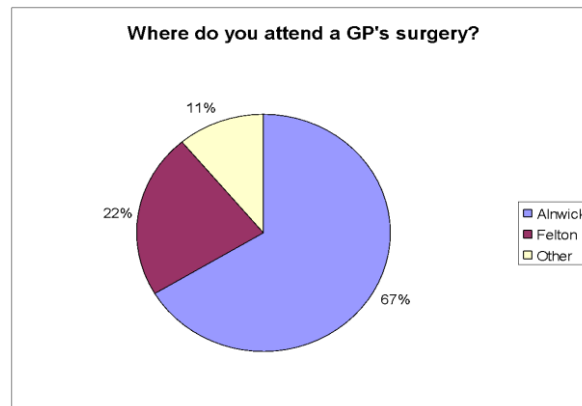
- a) Although only 5% of respondents felt they needed help, this still amounts to 12 people. If the sample was representative of the parish as a whole this would mean about 37 people needed some form of help.
- b) 75% of the over-60s felt that their social own needs and those of people with hearing and mobility difficulties were not being met.
- c) A significant number of respondents (71%) felt the recreational and social needs of those aged 13-18 were not being met, though younger children were adequately provided for.

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8.9. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

8.9.1 GP surgery attendance

Residents were asked where they attended a GP, and how they got there. A significant majority of respondents (67%) attended a surgery in Alnwick (slightly fewer males than females).



This attendance pattern appears to be consistent, throughout the age and location groups, though 75% of those aged 19-29 and slightly more Swarland residents attended the Felton surgery, which is also a dispensary. The vast majority (99%) go by car, either their own or someone else's. This reflects the difficulty of accessing front-line health services by public transport.

8.9.2. Carers, their needs and support

Residents were asked whether they considered themselves carers, and if so, whether their needs were met, including the need for respite care. Although only 8% of respondents considered they had caring responsibilities (about 20 people) nearly 25% of these felt they did not have the proper support. If the sample were applied to the whole of the parish population this would represent around 59 people. Where the provision of respite care is seen as a significant part of this possible support, the figure rises to 38% overall and significantly, 50% in the over-60s age group.

This clearly requires further investigation, particularly in view of the statutory obligations on health and social care services to assess and meet the needs of local populations.

8.9.3. Specific comments

These related to:

- The lack of support networks in the parish, such as a doctor, a nurse, or a drop-in centre.

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- The absence of anyone local with whom to discuss any problems or just chat.

8.9.4 Key points about Health and Social Care

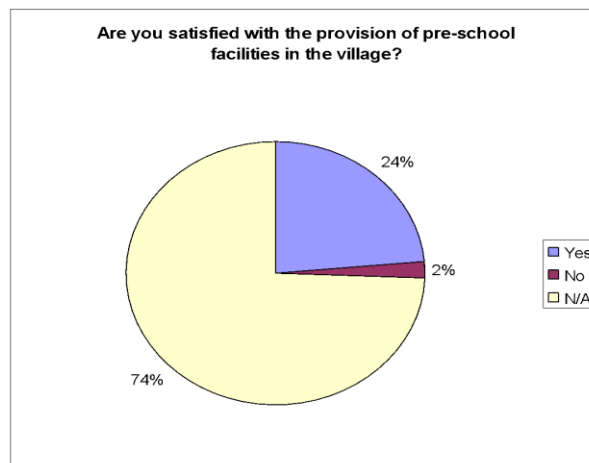
- a) A significant number of people (8%) in the parish consider themselves to be carers and a quarter of those consider that they do not have proper support, particularly respite care.
- b) Accessing front-line Health Care services from the parish is not possible using public transport services.
- c) Based on findings of the Alnwick District Housing Survey, that there will be a likely 81% increase in the retired population, and 69% of those with a disability will be over 60, there are questions about future access to health services within the parish.

8.10. EDUCATION

8.10.1. The school in the community

96% of respondents see Swarland First School as an asset in the parish.

8.10.2. Pre-school facilities in the parish



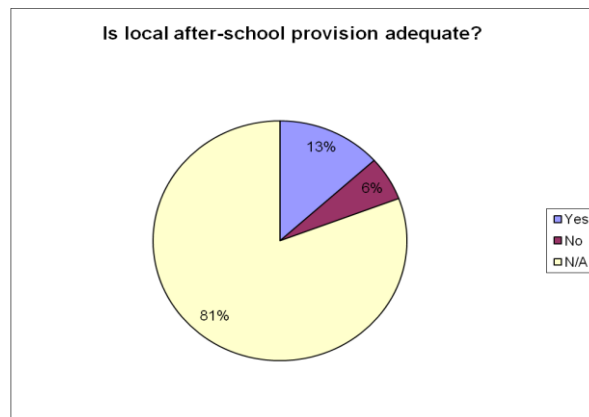
Because respondents were able to indicate that this question was not applicable to them, it can be concluded that around 26% of total respondents had an interest in pre-school facilities. The majority of these were satisfied with provision, but some would like more nursery and pre-school provision for working parents.

8.10.3. After-school provision

Because respondents were able to indicate that this question was not applicable to them, it can be concluded that around 19% of total respondents

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had an interest in after-school facilities, two-thirds of whom were satisfied with provision.



The response from the 13-18 age group was interesting in that 29% of respondents were dissatisfied and 29% satisfied with after-school provision. This was a relatively small sample however of just 17 responses.

8.10.4. Youth Club provision

A number of the responses from the Hog Roast event raised the need for a youth club and one offer actually to run it. In the young peoples' responses to the question about dislikes, the second highest number of responses referred to the lack of clubs for young people and teenagers.

8.10.5 Adult classes within the parish

71% of respondents expressed an interest in adult education classes, and listed their preferred topics. There were almost as many subjects as respondents, but language and computer classes were top of the list.

8.10.6. Specific comments

A full list of comments can be found in Appendix 9.

- A total of 6 comments were made specifically about the school and related mainly to additional pre-school provision.
- Adult education classes generated a total of 136 comments, indicating a serious interest in this area. The highest number of suggestions were for language and computer classes (28 each), followed by fitness classes (12).
One person made the point that there was sufficient, but undersubscribed, provision in Alnwick and Shilbottle.

8.10.7. Additional Information

Strothers Educational Charity

During the Parish Plan process it was suggested that consideration should be given to the future of the Strothers Educational Charity. This was established several centuries ago to award grants for the benefit of children

Parish Plan for Swarland and Newton on the Moor

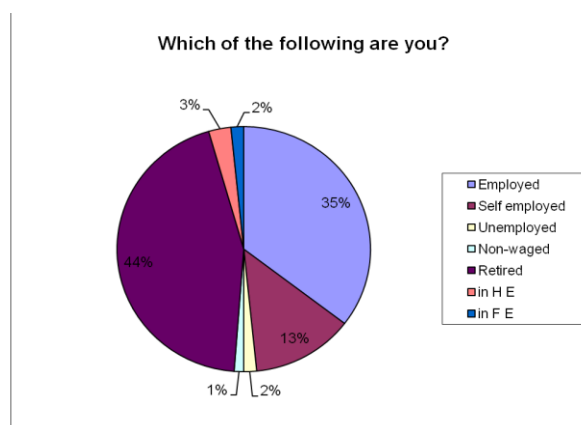
within the 'township' of Newton on the Moor. The Charity has been inactive for a number of years and does not have an active group of Trustees.

8.10.8. Key points about Education

- a) The school is considered an essential part of the community.
- b) The 30-45 and 46-59 age groups had the greatest interest in the education questions.
- c) Only a relatively small number of respondents indicated dissatisfaction with pre-school facilities.
- d) Expanding pre-school / nursery provision should be explored further with Chester Bears and the school.
- e) As at the Hog Roast, the questionnaire revealed some comments relating to the need for after-school facilities within the parish, including a youth club, with the 13-18s having a particular interest.
- f) After-school provision needs to be considered further, possibly linked with the Sports Club's facilities, but as there was not a high response from the 13-18s, caution would be needed when taking forward any proposals.
- g) There would appear to be a good demand for adult classes in the village, particularly language and computer classes.
- h) The Strothers Educational Charity and any potential benefits that it might represent needs to be evaluated.

8.11. EMPLOYMENT

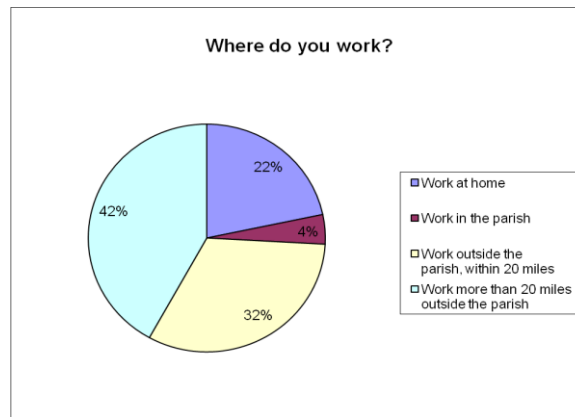
8.11.1. Employment status



48% of respondents indicated they were employed, with 13% self employed. A similar number of respondents indicated that they were retired. 3% were either non-waged or unemployed and 5% were in Higher or Further Education.

8.11.2. Location of work

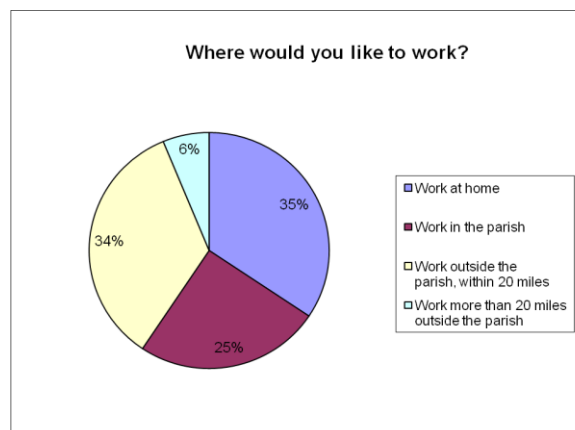
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74% of working respondents commute to work outside the parish, over half of whom travel more than 20 miles to work. The remaining 26% work within the parish, the majority at home. Whilst there is no detailed information about this, it could be assumed that some of those working at home will be running their own businesses and others will be doing so in support of an enterprise outside the parish.

8.11.3. Work location preferences

When asked to indicate where they would like to work, it was clear that there was a desire to work at home, closer to home, or at least within the parish. Those willing (rather than having) to travel over 20 miles to work dropped markedly to 6%.



8.11.4. Internet use

Asked how they used the internet at home, 27% of respondents indicated that they used it predominantly for work and 73% for leisure. Considering around half of respondents are retired or not working, this represents a significant number of those in work using the internet for work purposes.

8.11.5. Reliability of internet services

62% of respondents found the service reliable, 38% did not. This result seems to contradict the general perception within the parish that the

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broadband service is unreliable. However, it is the low broadband speed (rather than general unreliability) which has been raised at Parish Council level and is reflected in the responses to the business survey. Overall speed is linked to the type of use, size of files that need to be transmitted, and at what time the internet is accessed. The 38% negative response is therefore significant: those wanting to use the internet particularly for work-related applications could be disadvantaged.

8.11.6 Specific comments

- 13 respondents said that the internet exchange is slow and needs updating.
- Reference was made specifically to the need to upgrade the BT exchange at Felton to improve the service.

8.11.7. Key points about Employment

- a) Almost half of residents were retired at the time of the survey.
- b) Compared with those who live and work in the parish, a significant number of residents commute beyond it.
- c) Nevertheless a relatively high number work from home.
- d) There is a clear desire by those in work to be able to work at home, within the parish, or closer to it.
- e) To facilitate working from home, reliable internet access comparable with that in urban centres is essential.
- f) Economic and planning policy for rural areas possibly needs to reflect the desire for economic activity outside the main urban service centres.

8.12. LOCAL DEMOCRACY

8.12.1. Parish Councillors

Asked whether they knew the names of their Parish Councillors, 69% of respondents did and 31% did not. There was a marked age difference in response to this question: 79% of the older age groups (particularly the over-60s), 59% of the 13-18s (total sample size 17), and only 31% of the 30-45 age group did so. In Newton on the Moor 92% of respondents provided a positive response, although the sample was low at 25.

8.12.2. Contacting your Parish Councillors

Asked whether they knew how to contact their Parish Councillors, responses mirrored those to the previous question: yes (69%) and no (31%). A similar age difference was also exhibited, with the higher positive response from the older groups (particularly the over-60s at 79%).

8.12.3. Attendance at Parish Council meetings

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Asked whether they had attended a Parish Council meeting, only a quarter of respondents indicated that they had. Age was a significant factor, with only 6% of the 13-18s and 5% of 30-45s having done so.

8.12.4. The working of the Parish Council system

Awareness of how the Parish Council works was evenly split with 49% answering 'Yes' and 51% 'No'. The younger age groups returned more negative responses, and only 26% of a key group, the 30-45 year olds, indicated that they understood the system.

8.12.5. Communications from the Parish Council

Asked whether they were satisfied with communications from the PC, 75% responded positively, including 64% of the 30-45s, and 78% of the 46-59 and the over-60 age groups.

8.12.6. Specific comments

A full list of individual comments is available in Appendix 10. There were 53 wide-ranging comments, mainly demonstrating a moderate level of understanding of the Parish Council system and reasonable communication between the community and the Parish Council.

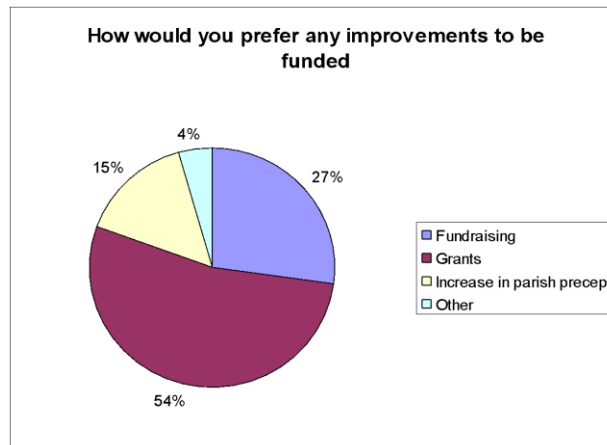
8.12.7. Key points about Local Democracy

- a) There is a good level of awareness of who our Parish Councillors are and how to contact them.
- b) A high number of respondents are satisfied with communication from the Parish Council.
- c) Although the above figures are positive, they should be viewed with the proviso that older age groups are the majority in the parish, and they are more likely to understand the system.
- d) Around half of respondents do not understand the how the Parish Council system works. This needs to be improved, as do some aspects of communication between the community and the Parish Council. This applies particularly to younger age groups.

8.13 FUNDING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Residents were asked to consider how they would wish improvements arising from the questionnaire to be funded. There was little significant variation in responses to this question apart from the 13-18 age group which favoured a higher level of fundraising. Overall 81% of respondents preferred either the use of fundraising or grants, with only 15% in favour of an increased parish precept.

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8.13.1. Specific comments about Funding Improvements in the Community

A full list of comments can be found in Appendix 11.

8.14. YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRE

A full list of comments can be found in Appendix 12. Under-13s were asked to record the five things that they most liked and the five things that they least liked about living in the parish.

8.14.1. Key points about young peoples' comments

- a) Though individual comments were very varied, what came across was a liking for the characteristics of village and countryside living: "pretty", "safe and secure", "conker trees", "nature and wildlife", "countryside / woods".
- b) Many young people's dislikes were very similar to those of adult respondents, namely inconvenience, speeding traffic, unfinished roads, insufficient pavements, dog fouling, and few buses.
- c) The lack of facilities for children and teenagers, and the resulting boredom, were highlighted.

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9. REVIEW OF PROGRESS SO FAR

The original Parish Plan survey highlighted a number of suggestions / requests from the community. Some of these have been carried out during the time it has taken to complete the Parish Plan, some are in progress, and others await action.

9.1. Requested items already completed or resolved

- a) The potential closure of the Swarland and Guyzance junction on the A1: NCC and Aone state that this will not be happening.
- b) Protection of Red Squirrels: Signage and squirrel ropes have been installed.
- c) Dog bin at the north end of The Avenue: This has been installed.
- d) Resurfacing of Leamington Lane: Now completed.
- e) Improved understanding of how a Parish Council works: Display at Swarland Show 2009.
- f) Improved communication between Parish Council and the community: Use of The Column and the Parish Council's website.
- g) Erection of business signs along A1: NCC Highways and Aone will not allow signage without planning permission and even then are limiting signage allowed.
- h) Doorstep glass bottle collections: NCC has stopped this service elsewhere.
- i) Improved recycling facilities: NCC is removing facilities except for glass collection.
- j) Removal of old public notice board in Newton on the Moor: Residents can now use the Parish Council's notice board.
- k) Concern over the future of Newton Hall: The Hall and its estate have been sold to new owners.
- l) Pavement from The Avenue to the Sports Club: Completed.
- m) Improvement of The Square, Swarland: Completed by Swarland Village Action and now under the control of the Parish Council and adopted by NCC.
- n) A plan or map of the village in The Square: Provided and installed by Swarland Village Action.

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- o)** Refurbishment of Swarland Village Hall kitchen: Completed by the Hall Committee.
- p)** Continuation of Swarland Show: This is dependent upon individuals coming forward to run each year's event.

9.2. Items currently being addressed

- a)** Improvements to the bus service.
- b)** Improvements to the broadband service.
- c)** Improvements to Vyner Park.
- d)** Improved access to Swarland Woods.
- e)** Flower planting at entrances to the village(s).
- f)** Repair of Listed circular cattle shelters on the golf course: The Conservation Officer, NCC Planning Department has been notified.
- g)** Traffic-calming measures including increased police patrols for speeding.
- h)** Repairs to the Pant in Newton on the Moor: Restoration to be done by owner.

9.3. Requested items awaiting action

- a)** Direction and business signs needed to and within Old Swarland.
- b)** Low cost housing.
- c)** Sheltered housing.
- d)** Tree belt management.
- e)** Dog bin positioning and increase in numbers.
- f)** Provision of mains gas in Swarland.
- g)** Improvement of road surfaces.
- h)** Installation of footpath along Leamington Lane.
- i)** Installation of footpath from Percy Wood to the School.
- j)** Installation of footpath along Park Road.
- k)** Traffic control on the hill in Newton on the Moor.

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- l) Improved signs to, and drainage and maintenance of public footpaths.
- m) Improved promotion of public footpaths.
- n) Improved road signs and installation of road signs where missing.
- o) Improved A1 junctions.
- p) Improved sewerage system.
- q) Production of a “Welcome to the parish” booklet.

9.4. Additional features respondents would like

The following were listed by residents as desirable, but require individual initiatives and / or third party involvement.

- a) Coffee Shop.
- b) Village Pub.
- c) Youth Club.
- d) Child care provision.
- e) Recreational activities for all ages including adult education classes.
- f) Better access to front-line care services.
- g) After-school facilities for 13-18 age group.
- h) Real ale in the Club.
- i) Live music in the Club.
- j) Better utilisation of the Sports Club.

For a full “wish list” see Appendix 4.

10. ACTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS PLAN

This section draws together all of the findings from the surveys to establish an Action Plan and Recommendations for Implementation. Issues are arranged as in the questionnaire.

Leadership: Acting on the recommendations within the plan will require leadership at a number of levels. Those who seem best placed to lead on individual issues are identified in the plan (in parentheses). The aim should be to involve others, ideally to reach the point where they take over the lead.

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Amenities and facilities

Issue: Lack of information for new residents.

How: 1. Produce a "Welcome to the parish" pack for new residents. (PC)

When: Short term.

Issue: Lack of facilities for the 13-18 age group.

How: 2. Investigate further the needs of the 13-18s. (Gallery Youth Project)

When: Medium term.

Issue: Desire for more social events and activities.

How: 3. Devise social events that cater for all parts of the community. (Local groups)

When: Medium term.

Issue: Use of Club and village halls.

How: 4. Monitor status of Jubilee Hall. (PC / Jubilee Hall Committee)

5. Assess the viability of coordinated improvements to Swarland Club and Swarland Village Hall. (Swarland Club / SVH Committees)

When: Medium term.

Housing

Issue: Affordable housing within the parish.

How: 6. Review the need for affordable housing in the parish. (NCC / PC)

When: Medium term.

Natural environment

Issue: Improvements to Vyner Park.

How: 7. Consider Vyner Park improvements in consultation with all sectors of the community. (PC)

When: Short term.

Issue: Improved access for walkers and other users.

How: 8. Produce report on the state of Public Rights of Way/access routes. (NCC/PC

/ SVS / NMSHUG)

When: Medium term.

Issue: Red Squirrels.

How: 9. Carry out survey of Red Squirrel numbers to establish the current population. (SVA / NWT)

When: Short term.

Issue: Strong interest in heritage and conservation issues.

How: 10. Identify heritage / conservation issues and activities of interest. (HG)

When: Short term.

Energy and infrastructure

Issue: Strong support for renewable energy resources in the parish.

How: 11. Investigate potential for renewable energy resources within the parish. (PC)

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When: Medium term.

Issue: Mains gas in Swarland.

How: 12. Reopen with providers the case for mains gas in Swarland. (PC)

When: Medium term.

Issue: Inadequate drainage and sewerage systems in Swarland.

How: 13. Continue to liaise with Northumbrian Water about upgrading the system and disseminate information to the community. (PC)

When: Medium to long term.

Traffic

Issue: Concerns about road safety.

How: 14. Establish NCC's available resources and priorities for road and footpath improvements; disseminate this information to the community. (PC)

15. Pursue the provision of footpaths (Leamington Lane and Park Road) and request improvements to existing footpaths (eg west of NotM). (PC)

16. Aim for the voluntary adoption of a 20mph speed limit on roads within the villages. (PC)

17. Obtain residents' views on traffic calming measures and implement where / when possible. (PC)

When: Short term.

Transport

Issue: Lack of a regular bus service and potential future changes.

How: 18. Maintain pressure on public transport providers to continue local bus services. (PC)

19. Consider alternative transport options. (PC / SVA)

When: Short term.

Community links

Issue: About 37 people within the parish feel they need some form of help.

How: 20. Explore means of coordinating a "Good Neighbour Scheme" locally for those

in the community who need practical help. (PC)

When: Short term.

Health and social care

Issue: The needs of those with hearing and mobility difficulties are not being met.

How: 21. Investigate local needs and issues and inform appropriate service providers. (PC)

When: Short term.

Issue: A number of carers in the parish need better respite provision.

How: 22. Facilitate promotion of information on respite and support services available to carers. (NCC / Relevant agencies / PC)

When: Short term.

Education

Issue: Interest by 13-18s in after-school activities.

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How: 23. Investigate further the needs of the 13-18s for after-school activities. (See Action 2 above)

Issue: Strong demand for adult classes, in particular computers and languages.

How: 24. Explore means to inform residents of locally available adult classes, as the scope for specific course provision within the parish is limited. (NCC / PC)

When: Short term.

Issue: Dormant Strothers Charitable Trust has the potential to benefit children and young people.

How: 25. Investigate feasibility of reviving the Strothers Charitable Trust. (Remaining Trustees / CAN)

When: Medium term.

Employment

Issue: Good quality broadband provision.

How: 26. Maintain current pressure on BT to upgrade provision to support local enterprises and work from home. (PC)

When: Medium term.

Issue: Lack of public transport limits employment opportunities for those without cars.

How: 27. Maintain pressure on public transport providers to continue services for those travelling to / from work. (PC)

When: Short term.

Local democracy

Issue: Limited understanding of how the PC works

How: 28. Produce a statement of the PC's structure, role and responsibilities. (PC)

When: Medium term.

29. Produce a "Guide to the Parish Council" for local residents.
(NALC/CAN/PC)
Short term.

Issue: Improve communication between PC and community, particularly in the light of the enhanced role the PC will be expected to fulfil in the future.

How: 30. Produce a communications policy. (PC)

When: Short term.

How: 31. Initiate parish-wide consultation on significant plans or actions the PC wishes to implement. (PC)
Medium term.

32. Determine community needs through surveys and consultation events. (PC / SVA / Other)
Medium term.

33. Improve access to our County Councillor. (NCC / PC)
Short term.

34. Survey residents' views on current content and format of The Column

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newsletter. (SVA)
Medium term.

Issue: Other issues for review.

How: 35. Evaluate the PC's prominent role in Vyner Park management and possible alternatives. (PC / SVA)

When: Medium term.

How: 36. Repeat our request for a review of parish boundaries. (PC / TBC)

When: Short term.

How: 37. Monitor the implementation of the Parish Plan.

When: Long term.

Key: CAN – Community Action Northumberland

HG – Heritage Group

NALC – National Association of Local Councils

NCC – Northumberland County Council

NWT – Northumberland Wildlife Trust

NMSHUG – Newton on the Moor & Swarland Horse Users Group.

PC – Parish Council

PPSG – Parish Plan Steering Group

SVA – Swarland Village Action

SVH – Swarland Village Hall

TBC – Boundary Commission

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APPENDIX 1 PARISH PLAN STEERING GROUP

Members:

Robert Brotherton
Katie Brotherton
Susan Clarke
Jim Close
Sue Francis
Kath Graham
Lisa Hamlin
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Julia Plinson (CAN)
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Other contributors:

Janet Dyson, Head Teacher, Swarland County First School
Marc Johnson, CAN
Anthony Simm, Questionnaire design
Vera Vaggs, Historical information

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APPENDIX 2. RESULTS OF THE PRELIMINARY EVENTS, SEPTEMBER 2007

Appendix 2.1. Suggestions from the Newton on the Moor event

(N.B. Number of comments in parentheses)

Transport

- Concern about the inadequate provision of public transport, specifically in the light of recent reductions to services, and effects on bus-pass users. (28)
- Car / lift sharing scheme. (2)

Social Life

- Lack of opportunity for social action. (Unanimous)
- Health care, exercise sessions and related activities.
- Pooled suppers.
- Variety of educational and hobby groups, eg writers, gardening group, country dance, crafts, flower arranging, wine tasting, seasonal gathering, eg the old Easter event, adult education classes.
- Britain in Bloom, Red Cross Gardens and other group organised events.
- Improvement to social centre in the village, ie Jubilee Hall facilities.

Environment

- Preservation of The Pant. (Unanimous)
- More regular cutting of hedges along the footpaths. (6)
- Street furniture to be made more sympathetic, including lighting. Removal or concealment of electricity and telephone cables. (4)
- Improvement to the lighting at Cook and Barker corner by pedestrian access from the hill. (2)
- Regular maintenance and signposting of footpaths and bridleways, and their gates and bridges etc. Parish walks to educate on available Public Rights of Way. (5)
- Village notice board (outside Old Post Office) to be taken over and maintained by the Parish Council [can now use PC noticeboard]. (3)
- Water Board installation MUST be landscaped and screened. (6)
- Pavements and road surfaces levelled to replace hollows, leaning slopes etc. (4)

Highways

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- In view of the increasing volume and speed of traffic on the A1, improvement needs to be made to both exits / entrances, particularly to the south of the village, by for example, lights, reflectors, or slip roads. (30)
- Road signs on egress from the village obscure the sight line on the southern exit. (11)
- Speeding through the village. (10)
- Increase in the through traffic of heavy vehicles linked to farming and building trades eg soil lorries, including those using the Chesterhill site [now closed].
- Unauthorised use of village route by increasing number of lorries generally, causing damage to the infrastructure of village and housing. (20)
- Upgrading from 'Give way' sign to 'Halt' at the bottom of the Cut. Improvement / control of traffic flow on The Cut, eg priority arrow upwards (for icy conditions), or a one-way system. (10)
- Improve road drainage around the former Pant opposite Quarry House, which causes hazardous freezing across road throughout the winter. (4)

Future Development

- Any new building should be in sympathetic materials and appropriate designs, in keeping with the village.
- Heighten awareness of the Conservation status of the main part of the village eg grants available for maintenance and restoration of significant features.
- Affordable housing of suitable proportion, design and location.
- Concern and uncertainty about Whittle Colliery. Is there a Local Plan for this area already in place, which may need publicising / updating, through Planning Authority?
- Concern about the future of Newton Hall.
- Uncertainty regarding the future status of the Jubilee Hall and the current rental arrangement, as part of Newton Hall estate. Future ownership, management and development opportunities for the community.
- Could Parish Council reorganise to delegate different people to specialise in particular topic areas eg transport, social needs, young people's needs?
- Services in Newton, eg green opportunities, Public Rights of Way quality, Strothers' Charity opportunities.
- Relationships between Newton and Swarland communities, eg isolationism versus economies of scale, parish boundaries.

Appendix 2.2. Suggestions from the Swarland event

(N.B. The numbers of comments for each issue were not counted separately in the analysis)

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Sports Club

- More sports clubs for us all!! Keep us fit.
- Smaller room need than the hall for small meetings. Possibly the Sports Club?
- The Sports Club needs to realize its full potential. How can interest in it be stimulated?
- Café, lunch club maybe at under used Sports Club.
- Realise the full potential of the Sports Club. Turn the bowling green into crazy golf.
- My worry is that a super facility like the Sports Club is under used. Any suggestions?
- CCTV cover of play area / sports area. Even a fake one with signs.

Shop and Post Office

- The Village Shop and Post Office is a good facility. We want to see it stay and hope to use it frequently.
- The Post Office must not close!!
- With the closure of many Post Offices in rural areas across the country are the proprietors of the Village Shop doing enough to make sure our branch remains open for business?
- Post Office must stay and shop.
- Keep village shop and Post Office.
- The Local shop is Lovely. Do not shut the Post Office.
- News Page to keep us up to date with developments.
- As newcomers the village shop is very welcoming and useful. Local providers for meat and veg. and bread are all excellent quality.
- Shop is great. Good range of produce and opening hours. We love Pat!
- Coffee shop in square. Yes! Cappuccinos!./sic] Juice bar.
- The Village Shop is so friendly. Brian and Brenda have done a great job. Well done.
- Coffee Shop.

Public Transport

Service improvements

- More frequent buses to Morpeth and Alnwick. Last returns at 10.30 pm.
- Improved public transport.
- More public transport.
- Look into transport from Swarland to Felton to link with bus to Alnwick, Morpeth and Newcastle.
- Better public transport links to Alnwick and Newcastle.
- Improved public transport for those who don't drive. The local bus 406 is to be withdrawn on 14th October.
- Bus. Please think about people without cars. It is not fair.
- Bus service to be introduced. Isolation of village. To people unable to reach Alnwick, Morpeth and Newcastle.
- I would like a bus service comparable to Felton.
- Bus transport for OAPs to Alnwick / Alnmouth for shopping. Decent timetable.
- One-way bus service. We believe this is now to be lost also.
- Like the 7.08 to Newcastle and the 16.30 and 19.30 back.

Car Sharing

- Possible lifts by car for OAPs to Alnwick for shopping.
- Car sharing. Lift Sharing. Website to book.

Other

- Public transport through Swarland. Visible policing. Widening Leamington Lane.

Children and Young People

Parish Plan for Swarland and Newton on the Moor

Child Care

- More childcare.
- There are no child-minders anymore. We need childcare for working parents.
- Lack of childcare in village for under-5s.
- Baby-sitters circle / club needed.
- What about the under-5s. Out of School Club.

Youth Club

- A youth club.
- A youth club would be great.
- Nothing to do for older children. What about a youth club?
- More older children's clubs.
- We would like a facility for young people. A weekly youth club for over-11s. We are happy to run it-organise everything.
- How about a youth club?
- Increased provision for young people.
- A club for younger children. Unfortunately our child attends a school outside the village but needs contact with children here.
- More for the under 16s. Swarland Sports Club doesn't allow under 16s inside unless with an adult.
- More Places for Children over14 to go.

Other

- Swarland should have a weekly newsletter for children.
- An Indoor Ice Rink.
- Holiday Club for Children.

School

- The school is a vital part of the village and more should be done to support and integrate it with the community.
- Must support and keep the Village School (and the village shop).
- What is the future of the school? Can we be assured it will stay in the village as a benefit to the community?
- We must keep our School. Pre-school is essential to our kids getting a head start.

Chester Bears *[Clearly done by youngsters& excluded from % figures].*

- I loved Chester Bears.
- More childrens?
- I like Chester Bears because.....
- Colouring in books.
- Playing equipment.
- The books.
- I liked Chester Bears because we made lots and read stories.

Dogs

- Most dog owners are responsible. Let them use Vyner Park.
- Dog Show at Swarland Show.
- Dog Walking Club.
- All dogs being walked should be muzzled and children too.
- More do friendly walks where you let dogs off leads.

Caravan Park

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- Do not allow the Caravan Park to expand!!!
- Caravan Park is now too large so should now be restricted to existing members.
- No Caravan Park expansion! More trees for coverage.
- The Caravan Park is beginning to overwhelm the village. Please no more expansion for all involved.
- Percy Woods must be integrated. The revenue it brings to the community must not be underestimated.
- What's wrong with the Caravan Park? They should be included and not discriminated against.
- Would like to see a good screen along road to Longframlington so we can't see caravans winter or summer.

Access

- Work with Forestry Commission to improve access to woods.
- Improved bridleway access in woods and around.
- More pathways and country walks.
- To identify public footpaths in the Swarland area with a view to reopening them and publicise them to the community and actively encourage usage.
- To actively encourage usage of the numerous walks through Swarland Woods and again to publicise the walkway routes with the help of the Forestry Commission.
- To develop a local Rambling Club to improve the health and fitness of the community.

Planning

- No more building.
- Expansion at the Chesters Farm. How many more cattle sheds etc?

Roads and Signage

Road Signs

- Can Leamington (*sic*) Lane be sign posted.
- Can we please have a road sign for "Nile Drive" noted on the Avenue and Kenmore Road signs?
- Nile Drive to be signposted.
- Better (Swarland) signing at both ends of village.
- Road signs missing.
- Signage for Admiral Close (off Kenmore Road) not yet in place.
- Road sign missing - either replace or remove post.
- Road sign missing - either replace or remove post.
- Please add Victory Drive to road signs on Nelson and Kenmore.
- A nice sign or signs perhaps in stone saying "Welcome to Swarland".
- Install a more welcoming sign to the entrance of the village - perhaps stone with suitable motif.

Road surfaces

- Homefarm Cottages Lane to be resurfaced.
- Would like Avenue resurfaced but no ridiculous speed limit of less than 30 mph.
- Continue pavement from The Avenue to shops and Sports Club. Dangerous in icy conditions.
- Roads are in a poor state.
- All unfinished roads in the village should be completed. It is a sad fact that wherever you are in the village you are less than 100m from an unfinished road.
- Surface Homefarm Cottages Lane.
- Road surface in poor condition.
- All roads need resurfacing and adopting by ADC.
- Improved gritting square in winter needed.

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- Would like to see Studley Drive surfaced.
- All roads to be adopted by Alnwick DC.
- Large drops at edge of road.
- Footpath / cycleway up to Percy Wood.
- It is impossible to walk on the verges along Leamington Lane to avoid traffic. Pavements are a must.
- Road surfaces are crap. More pavements. Leamington Lane pavement?
- Roads are a disgrace and need to be resurfaced and adopted.
- Road verges eroded with deep fissures at the edges of the road.
- Completion of unmade roads and surface water. Drainage of all roads especially Leamington lane.
- I would like all roads to be adopted and builders compelled to complete roads on all new build.
- More pavements.
- Road access. Condition of road surface is a disgrace. Disgrace coming from Longframlington on Old Swarland Road.
- Bike paths and pavements.
- Terrible condition of road surfaces within whole of Swarland.

Street Lighting

- All roads need resurfacing and adopted but no street lights please
- Street lighting is non existent around Kenmore Rd. Admiral Close.
- Lack of street lighting on Kenmore and Nelson Drive.
- No more street lights please. Enjoy the stars. Take a torch!!
- Street lighting at end of Cherry Tree Drive.

Speeding / Road Safety

Road Safety

- Speeding.
- 20 mph limit in village. Yes!
- 30mph on the Avenue is rarely observed.
- Speed calming around periphery Park Rd, Avenue, Leamington Lane.
- 50 mph should be enforced on the A1 between Felton and Alnwick slip roads.
- Speed limit needed from North Lodge to the Golf Club.
- Traffic calming measures Avenue and Park Road.
- Early clearance of snow / ice / gritting on the Avenue crossroads. V dangerous.
- Accident waiting to happen where Nelson Rd meets Kenmore Road.
- Would like to see a speed limit on the Avenue 20mph.
- Traffic calming measures on the Avenue.
- Speeding vehicles.ie 50-60mph or more along Park Road. Note: Speed bumps are no good.
- Speed limit reduced to 20 mph.
- Speeding on Leamington Lane.
- School crossing.
- Traffic calming e.g. Sleeping Policemen.
- Speeding. Speed ramps!
- Need pedestrian crossings on the Avenue for bus stop - Vyner Park to Square - shop.
- Speeding on all roads. Speed limit within village should be 20mph.
- Hedging / garden overgrowth obscures vision for cars. Cars drive too fast down smaller roads especially around corners.

A1 / Junctions

- I'd like to see speed cameras on the A1 exits near Swarland Village.
- I'd like to see speed cameras on the A1 section near Swarland.
- Fully support the A1 being made 50 mph as it was in Stannington.
- Traffic calming measures on all A1 Junctions.
- Swarland is separated from Felton and Shilbottle by the A1- resulting in dangerous manoeuvres

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(especially by buses and long vehicles).

- After last Saturdays events on the A1 I'd like to find a solution to crossing that stretch of road. Ideally an underpath like Stannington would be great but it's very expensive, so I suggest a 50mph or less zone. Talks of more "signage" in the media won't make the slightest bit of difference. We need practical measures not distracting signs!!!
- Better slip roads onto A1 X2.
- Leamington Lane very unsafe for dog walkers and those walking from Felton Bus stops to Swarland.

Infrastructure: Drains / Broadband etc

Sewage

- Sewerage system needs upgrading. Problems from increased linkage from Caravan Park.
- I'm concerned not about the people within but the system itself at the Caravan Site. The sewerage system is about to blow. *[edited to cover 2 separate issues]*
- All the un-adopted drains in the village should be CCTVd and cleaned including de-rooting and then be adopted. Some of these drains are 30 years old and some residents do not know they run through their property.
- Big improvements to the sewerage system are needed now that the Caravan Park is so large.
- Sewage / Foul water. Pipe Diameter? Lots of new housing, will pipe take flow. Especially with even more developments.

Internet Connection

- I'm concerned not about the people within but the system itself at the Caravan Site. The internet exchange is overloaded. *[edited to cover 2 separate issues]*
- Better internet. Connection very temperamental.
- Develop BT coverage ie internet.

Other

- Mains gas in the village.
- Signs some need cleaning.
- Refuse pick up.
- Can anything be done about the low water pressure?

Entertainment / Music

- Live music at Golf Club and Village Hall to end at 10.30pm (not 11.45pm) to preserve peace in village.
- Real ale in Club please. (2)
- More Live music at Swarland Club. (2)
- Better assortment of bottled beer at club.
- Folk music would be good. Annual Ceilidh is an excellent idea! Good luck to organizers.
- Open-air concert for teens and others in Vyner Park (summer).
- More venues for other types of music than folk music.

Environment

- Better tree protection including trees on the caravan site and golf course.
- The trees on the Avenue constitute the 2 highest hedges in the whole of Northumberland. They should be reduced in height by 1/3 at the council's expense. TPO's encourage neglect overgrowth and denial of light to residents close by.
- Like to see a cleaner Swarland. Regular village clean ups.
- A Squirrel sign on the Avenue.
- Squirrel stuff.
- Bring Swarland into SOS Scheme (NWT) for Red Squirrel protection.

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- Wind turbines in the woods.-green energy.
- Renewable energy?
- Protect wildlife areas around the village. More info to make people aware of red squirrels etc.
- Anyone owning land with or without planning permission should be made to keep it in tidy condition.
- Creation of a “green belt” or wildlife preserve around the outskirts of the village.
- A little farm for children with all different sorts of animals.
- Dog farm and cat farm.
- A big pretty hill.
- All tree belts to be preserved.
- Some swans.
- Bug Wood. A wood with lots of different bugs.

Allotments / Gardening

Allotments

- Can we develop the unused part of Vyner Park to allotments?
- Would like more allotments to be available.
- Would like to see more allotments available to everyone.
- Form a gardening club.
- How can I get an allotment?
- Water on the allotments.
- We would love an allotment. Can the School / pre-school be given an allotment space?

Britain in Bloom

- What are the feelings about Swarland looking to enter Britain in Bloom?
- Would Swarland like to enter “Britain in Bloom”? Creates a good community spirit.
- Swarland to consider entering the Britain in Bloom, dependant on volunteers. Also encourage volunteers for the Village Fair to go ahead.

Other

- A vegetable field (to pick all different types of vegetables).
- A Strawberry field (to pick Strawberries).

Vyner Park

- Could better (i.e. greater) use be made of the village playing fields?
- Tree planting in Vyner Park. Creation of a wildlife park area and walks.
- Wild life pond.
- Make better use of Vyner Park. Very overgrown.
- A lake.
- A race track.
- Smoother pathways around field-cycling path etc and skate park for youngsters.
- Possible mini ramp [skatepark] in area of the Sports Club by the car park at the unused dirt end.
- Swarland Vyner (*sic*) Park must be developed.
- How about a public Barbeque area (like Alnmouth) with benches in waste corner of Vyner Park?
- The vegetation in Vyner Park (*sic*) to be looked after properly e.g. long grass cleared and path cleaned.

The Village Square

- The village square needs a good facelift.
- Bad. Lack of prioritisation eg £50 k spent on obelisk. No money for village square.
- Engage XXXXXX [*edited to exclude named individual*] Builder to put something back into the Community. He could contribute big time to a new road / path surface for square.

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- Plan or map of village in square.
- Ugly Village Square.
- Central fountain in village square. Once ground works are complete.
- Suggest that XXXXXX *[edited to exclude named individual builder]* funds the improvements of the square. eg tarmac the surface.
- How about our local builder XXXXXX *[edited to exclude named individual]* funding the improvement of our square.
- Finish the village square.
- Improve the local square by adding a feature fountain and more landscaping-possible suggested to the local builder- XXXXXX *[edited to exclude named individual]*).
- Village square re-foundation to be done. Dangerous.
- In response to the suggestion that the square be resurfaced by XXXXXX *[edited to exclude named individual]*). Would a contribution from the shop not be unreasonable given the wear and tear done by shoppers?

Process / Organisational Local Government

- Improve effectiveness of Parish Council.
- You can only engage with those with gears (as in cars). People who want to go forward. Those who do not will be left behind.
- Vision statement? Strategy? How will we make it work? Who will ensure it will happen?
- Terms of reference needs to be developed. What are you looking to achieve? Whose support do we need to achieve our aims?
- From a starting point:- Swarland is lovely. We can only go forward. We must all work together.
- Do not forget - from this starting point. Swarland has so much to offer. Move together friendly and positively.
- Who will develop Business Plan? Who will develop strategic plan? Who will make it work? Priorities! Timescale!
- We need to work with other parishes.
- Volunteers cannot do it all. Local services are being slowly eroded but Council Tax keeps going up.
- With changes in local Government can local people effectively engage in the decision making process?
- Do we need a smaller more effective local governance. ie Parish Council elections?
- Do local people know how the system works?
- Who else needs to be represented?
- Bad too many separate factions / groups trying to achieve the same ie Village Action, Parish Council, Parish Plan Committee.
- Follow EFQM process - Result, Approach, Deployment, Assessment, Review.
- There are those who say NO. Let us think of reasons to say YES. Negativity buries village progress.

Miscellaneous

- Luncheon Club.
- This Forum must remain focussed.
- Swarland is a lovely place. We all need to be positive!! We must be a will do village.
- You can improve on what is already beautiful.
- Do we know how many carers are in the village? Is there any provision made to give them free time from caring?
- Can we find some way to get low cost housing into the area?
- Please, please. The village Hall kitchen needs refurbishment. Please.
- Table top sales – monthly -£6 a table. Let's adopt a swop shop!
- Historical trail around the village.
- Would like to see the village show continued.
- Felton has a "Welcome to Felton" booklet for newcomers. This is very useful. Does Swarland have one? (It includes Tel. and has details of all local clubs and amenities.)

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- **The Good:** Rural Location, Village Shop and Post Office, Sports Facilities, Children's Playground, Woods and Golf Course.
- **The Bad:** Lack of Public Transport, Parking along the Avenue near School cross roads (an accident waiting to happen), exits onto the A1 drainage.
- **The Ugly:** The Litter, Dog bin (near Bridge) often overflowing.

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Appendix 2.3. Subject analysis of comments

Category	No. of Comments	% of total comments	Sub category	No. of Comments	% of Category	% of total comments
Road / Signage	42	19%	Road Surfaces Road Signs Street Lighting Other / A1 Junctions	23 11 5 3	55% 26% 12% 7%	10% 5% 2% 1%
Speeding Road Safety	28	13%	Speeding / Traffic Calming A1 Junction Pavements / paths Other	19 4 4 1	68% 14% 14% 4%	8% 2% 2% 0%
Children and Young People	18	8%	Youth Club Child care Other	10 5 3	56% 28% 16%	4% 2% 1%
Environment	17	8%		17		8%
Public Transport	15	7%	Service Improvements Car Sharing Other	12 2 1	80% 13% 7%	5% 1% 0%
Shop / PO	12	5%		12		5%
Allotment / Gardening	12	5%	Allotments Britain in Bloom Other	7 3 2	58% 25% 17%	3% 1% 1%
Infrastructure Drains Broadband etc	12	5%	Sewage Other Internet / Broadband	5 4 3	42% 33% 5%	2% 2% 1%
The Square	12	5%		12		5%
Vyner Park	11	5%		11		5%
Entertainment	9	4%		9		4%
Caravan Park	7	3%	Negative comments Positive comments Other	4 2 1	57% 29% 14%	2% 1% 0%
Access	6	3%		6		3%
Dogs	5	2%		5		2%
School	4	2%		4		2%
Planning	2	1%		2		1%
Miscellaneous	12	5%		12		5%
Total	224	100%		224		
Chester Bears	12		<i>Not included in figures as</i>			

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			<i>clearly children's doodles</i>			
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APPENDIX 3. COPY OF QUESTIONNAIRE

QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire has been designed to find out what you think about the parish in which you live. The questions have, in part, been chosen in response to feedback from the 'Hog Roast' event in Swarland and the Wine and Cheese evening in Newton on the Moor, which many of you attended. So to get your viewpoint heard, please take the time to fill out this short questionnaire.

Thank you.

Please enter some basic details:

Gender - Male Female

Age - 13-18 19-29 30-45 46-59 60+

(If there are any under 13s in your family would you please ask them to complete the two questions on the separate sheet attached to the back of the questionnaire?)

Residence - Old Swarland Swarland Newton On The Moor
Percy Wood Other

Occupation (Optional) -

Amenities / Facilities

1) Which of the following local facilities or services do you use and how frequently?

	Daily	Regularly	Occasionally	Never
Village Shop				
Post Office				
Working Men's Club				
Golf Club and Amenities				
Pub				
Equestrian Centre				
Mobile Library				
Sports Club				

2) How often do you use the 2 village halls in the parish?

	Daily	Regularly	Occasionally	Never
Newton Village Hall				

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Swarland Village Hall				
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Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire

QUESTIONNAIRE

3) If your answer is 'occasionally' or 'never' what might make you use the village halls more?

4) Have you any suggestions as to what other services and amenities the parish might need that it currently doesn't have?

Housing

1) If more homes were built within the parish, what type(s) of home would you prefer to see?

- House with 1 or 2 bedrooms
- House with 3 or 4 bedrooms
- Sheltered accommodation (warden controlled)
- Affordable single status housing
- Adapted housing (e.g. for someone with a significant physical disability)
- No further housing development

Natural Environment

1) Are you satisfied with the following?

	Yes	No
Footpaths		
Pavements		
Rights of Way		

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2) Are you satisfied with the state of the hedgerows, trees, forestry walks, bridle paths and open spaces e.g. Vyner Park, in and around the parish?

Yes No

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire

QUESTIONNAIRE

3) Would you be in favour of projects to enhance the appearance of the villages?

Yes No

4) Would you be interested in taking part in heritage and conservation initiatives?

Yes No

5) Would you be interested in taking part in group walks around the parish?

Yes No

6) Would you be interested in supporting an entry into Britain in Bloom?

Yes No

If you answered yes to any of the above, please feel free to leave your details on the contact sheet attached to this questionnaire.

7) Please list any part(s) of the parish that you think require improvement from a conservation or environmental viewpoint.

8) Would you like more allotment space within the parish?

Yes No

9) If you are a dog-owner, are you satisfied with the provision of dog waste bins in the parish?

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Yes No

Energy and Infrastructure

1) Do you think the parish plan should recommend investigating sustainable energy sources for properties in the parish – e.g. small-scale wind turbines, solar water heating, geothermal heat extraction?

Yes No

2) Would you welcome the provision of mains gas in those parts of the parish that do not currently have it?

Yes No

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire

QUESTIONNAIRE

3) Can you suggest any ways to improve the current recycling facilities provided by Alnwick District Council within the parish?

Traffic

1) Do you feel safe on the roads and pavements in the parish?

Yes No

2) Which areas of risk concern you most?

- Speeding
- Heavy goods through transport
- Bad parking
- Poor road surfaces

Other (please specify) _____

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3) Would you support traffic calming schemes in the parish using the following:

- Chicanes
- Speed bumps
- Pedestrian crossings
- 'Smiley face / sad face' speed warning
- None

4) Please list any other ideas you may have for making the roads safer in the parish.

Transport

1) Do you rely on the public transport services provided for Swarland / Newton on the Moor?

Yes No

2) If yes, for what reasons?

- Access to health services
- Access to education

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire

QUESTIONNAIRE

- Recreation
- Shopping
- Work

3) If there was a more regular bus service in the parish would you use it?

Yes No

4) Would you be interested in a transport link to Felton to link up with the main bus route?

Yes No

If yes, is there any particular time of day or day of the week that you would find most useful for this link?

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5) Would you be prepared to participate in a car share scheme?

Yes No

If you answered yes to the above, please feel free to leave your details on the contact sheet attached to this questionnaire.

Community Links

1) Does anyone in your household (now or in the future) need help due to illness / age / disability which could be provided for by someone in the village e.g. taking to the doctor, making a meal, doing the garden?

Yes No

If you answered yes to the above, please feel free to leave your details on the contact sheet attached to this questionnaire.

What sort of help do you or might you need? *Tick all that apply*

- Practical help (shopping, gardening etc)
- Just someone popping in for a chat
- Help understanding bills etc
- Information on support services
- Ideas to keep me active / alert
- Help finding social activities
- Going for a walk

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire

QUESTIONNAIRE

2) Are the recreational / social needs met in the parish for the following:

Yes No
 Senior citizens

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- People with hearing / sight / mobility difficulties
- Young People (13-18)
- Children and infants (0-12)
- Other adults

Health and Social Care

1) Where do you attend a GP's surgery?

- Alnwick
- Felton
- Other

2) How do you get there?

- Car
- Lift
- Taxi
- Bus

3) Do you consider yourself a carer?

- Yes No

If yes, are your needs supported properly?

- Yes No

If no, please detail.

4) If you are a carer are you able to obtain respite care?

- Yes No

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire

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QUESTIONNAIRE

Education

1) Do you think the presence of the school is important to the parish community?

- Yes No

2) Are you satisfied with the provision of pre-school facilities in the village?

- Yes No N/A

If no, please explain how they could be improved.

3) Are local after-school provisions adequate?

- Yes No N/A

4) Would you like to see adult classes provided within the parish?

- Yes No

If yes, in what subject(s)?

Employment

1) Are you :-

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self employed | <input type="checkbox"/> In higher education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed | <input type="checkbox"/> In further education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-waged | |

2) Do you: -

Would you wish to: -

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work at home | <input type="checkbox"/> Work at home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work in the parish | <input type="checkbox"/> Work in the parish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work outside the parish, within 20 miles | <input type="checkbox"/> Work outside the parish, within 20 miles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work more than 20 miles outside the parish | <input type="checkbox"/> Work more than 20 miles outside the parish |

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3) Do you use the internet at home mainly for: -

Work	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Leisure	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

4) If yes, do you find the service reliable?

Yes No

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire

QUESTIONNAIRE

Local Democracy

1) Do you know the names of any of your Parish Councillors?

Yes No

2) Do you know how to contact your Councillors?

Yes No

3) Have you attended the monthly Parish Council meeting?

Yes No

4) Do you know how the Parish Council system works?

Yes No

5) Are you satisfied with the communication from the Parish Council?

Yes No

If not, how do you feel it could be improved?

Funding improvements

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Please indicate how you would prefer any improvements arising from this questionnaire to be paid for:-

- Fundraising
- Grants
- Increase in parish precept
- Other methods _____

Finally, if you have anything further to add about anything regarding the parish plan, please write in the space below

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire

QUESTIONNAIRE

Contact Sheet

If you answered 'yes' to providing your details on any of the questions in this questionnaire, please feel free to write your preferred contact details below:

Name:

Address:

Home Telephone Number:

E-mail address:

Parish Plan for Swarland and Newton on the Moor

We will get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire

QUESTIONNAIRE

Young Peoples' Questions

Could you please list the five things you like **most** about living in the parish?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

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4) _____

5) _____

Could you please list the five things you like least about living in the parish?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire

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APPENDIX 4 AMENITIES AND FACILITIES: COMMENTS

N.B. Multiple responses in brackets.

Re Village Halls:

More relevant / interesting / wider variety events. (17)
More advertising of what is taking place. (2)
More social events to bring old and new villagers together. (14)
If there [sic] were updated and redecorated.
Major refurb / reconstruction of SVH needed; its status as a Listed Building is counter-productive and should be reviewed to determine how it can be upgraded without jeopardising its history value. (2)
Pull SVH down and rebuild in smaller rooms with decent kitchen. (4)
Better kitchen in Swarland [Village Hall]. (2)
An easier procedure for who to contact / keys / fees etc.
More weekend events.
Nothing - would prefer to use the sports club pavilion.
Over the years have hired hall for family parties and have attended many social functions such as dances, discos etc. An excellent resource for the community and much appreciated range of events that take place.
Entertainment.
Entertainment for under 30s.
Music events. (7)
Ceilidh / dances. (8)
Dance Classes. (3)
Northumberland Theatre Company.
Burns night.
St Georges day.
Film club.
Semi professional choir.
Talks by interesting people. (2)
More events for teenagers. (6)
Youth Club. (4)
Evening Craft Courses. (4)
Adult learning courses.
Night classes. (5)
Lunch club. (3)
Model railway club.
Non-specific social occasions - eg pooled supper.
Car boot / table top sales. (2)
Exhibitions.
Craft / art shows. (3)
Family Events. (2)
Coffee Mornings. (3)
Activities at a time that working people can join in. (2)
Keep fit sessions. (5)
Badminton.
Pilates classes.
Sporting activity.

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Other services and amenities the parish might need:

Better bus service. (26)
More public transport.
Better roads. (2)
Street lighting. (2)
Pathway from school to caravan park.
Drains in Coast View would be good.
Better links with Alnmouth Station.
Map of Rights of Way for walkers shown in notice board.
Footpath connecting bottom end of Swarland ie Low Wood area via Vyner Park and The Square.
Welcome leaflet for new residents. (2)
Gas supply.
Broadband. (2)
More police patrols – preferably on foot or bike. (2)
Telephone at PWCP. (2)
Public seating.
Coffee shop. (7)
Nice Village Pub in Swarland. (6)
Deli Counter in the shop.
Extend shop opening times.
Mobile fish and chip van.
Mobile Shop.
Bigger / more shops.
Newspaper delivery service.
Restaurant.
Weekly village market.
Prescription service for those who cannot drive.
Women's Institute. (2)
A proper church.
Better organised sports activities at Sports Centre.
Live music in the Working Men's Club.
Dog kennels.
Youth Club. (6)
Places for teenagers to hang out.
More facilities for young people. (2)
Skate / bike park. (2)
Swimming pool.
Ice rink.
Keep fit classes.
Walking club. (2)
Dog friendly field.
Dog waste bins.
Less caravanners.
Group oil buying scheme to get discounts on heating oil.
Support for job creation, home working.
Skills / services swaps.
None - leave it alone.

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APPENDIX 5 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: COMMENTS

N.B. Multiple responses in brackets.

Green village – no plastic bags, car sharing.
Reduction in light pollution.
Hedgerows need cutting back from paths and roads.
Adoption of all the Roads.
Retain street lighting at current level or reduce street lighting.
Better street lighting on The Avenue.
Street lighting. (3)
Pavements down both sides of The Avenue. (3)
Roads need work / repairs. (7)
All roads should be adopted.
Street names to be indicated on main signs.
Drains in Coast View as water currently runs into a private driveway.
Kerbing of roads.
Road from School to Rasherap in poor condition.
All unfinished roads need to be completed.
Main through roads need to be widened.
Roads. (2)
Pavements.
Roads swept more often.
Although some of the roads are not adopted by the council, some residents should be obliged to fill in some massive potholes.
Footpaths and kerbs in both villages. (3)
Footpath from Avenue to golf club and equestrian centre.
Stop parking on grass verges.
Ditches to be cleaned out.
Improve drainage.
Drains need cleaned / upgraded.

Tidying of tree line.
Concerns about trees covered by TPOs, still very vulnerable to residents cutting them down.
Hedgerows needs cleaning up. (2)
Not enough circular walks available.
Red squirrel warning signs and bridges. (5)
Restore 2 circular cattle shelters on golf course. (3)
Forestry Paths need clearing in some places, potential to link to existing rights of way.
There should be a nature reserve in the wooded areas.
Ditches in woods are blocked causing paths to be flooded and creating muddy areas.
Swarland Woods – especially pathways. (4)
Forestry walks need improving. (2)
Dog bins in Swarland Woods.
Footpath from S. Lodge into Swarland Wood needs improving to allow for all year use.

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Woodland paths being eroded by horse riders – restriction should be imposed on horse riders.

The belt of trees between the houses/bungalows on The Avenue and the caravan park. TPO - Percy Wood.

Percy Wood Country Retreat is ever expanding – are there no controls over how many caravans they can put there? It has had serious environmental impact on the village, significant increase in traffic and residents have not been consulted. (5)

PWCP protection of wild life area and prevent from felling more trees - especially those relating to red squirrel habitat. (4)

Caravan park.

Clarification of sewerage arrangements from Percy Wood. Vyner Park – development of wildlife area, pond at rear of sports facilities.

Remove caravans.

Screening of Caravan site throughout the year.

Woodland to left of westbound road could be looked after and tidied up.

Vyner Park is poorly maintained and overgrown. Would benefit from better hedgerow maintenance and selective tree planting. An Exmoor pony or two might help to keep grasses areas in better shape. (12)

Bird / squirrel boxes around Vyner Park.

Broken signs at Vyner Park need replacing or don't replace and therefore nothing to attract mischief. (3)

The land alongside the burn in Vyner Park.

Mere Burn – cleaned and conserved.

Footpaths around Vyner Park.

Vyner Park is being more abused and misused by dog owners.

Maps to be available of walks around Swarland – sell copies in the Post Office.

Public footpaths through parish should be more clearly signposted.

Swarland Village Hall and Car Park.

Village Square needs restoration. (12)

Await square developments with interest.

Entrance to front of Home Farm Cottages.

Unkempt hedges.

Less litter. (3)

Persuade litter louts to put their litter in bins.

Too much rubbish left at Obelisk.

Make Swarland smoke free. (2)

Regular cleaning of lanes, forming entrance to villages.

Planting throughout the village should be done for the future.

Flower beds in village.

More attractive entrances to villages – flower beds. (4)

Should be a set of policies for protecting and enhancing the NotM conservation areas.

NotM – quarry litter.

NotM – screening of electricity sub-station.

NotM – Restoration of Pant needed.

NotM – hedgerow and path bordering Old Quarry.

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Pant at NotM needs repair. (2)
NotM – pant roof need repairing. (3)
NotM – bulbs in grass verges, centre of NotM – change grass cutting routine.
Overhead electricity lines in NotM too cluttered.
Periodic cleaning of telephone box at NotM.
Bridal path from NotM towards Newton Low Steads badly overgrown with an electric fence at one point stopping people from continuing the walk / ride.
Field opposite Quarry House and Hudsons Close is constantly neglected & overgrown
The Old Whittle Colliery Site.
Kitswell Dene rubbish dump.
No conservation !

More investment into allotments – storage, water, council compost.
A village community allotment - annual fee - everyone helps - all share produce.

It is not as much the provision of bins it is some owners who do not use them properly.

Need more dog bins. (2)
Need a dog bin at the bottom end of the village by the cross roads. (3)
One mid way along The Avenue would be useful.
Larger one needed at bridge.
Dog bins - thank you I am pleased to be able to use them.
Often bins full to the brim but there are still people not making the effort to clean up.
Dog owners should take their dirt home.
More penalties for dog fouling.
NotM – waste bin could be better positioned. (2)
Horse mess should also be cleaned up. (2)

APPENDIX 6 ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE: RECYCLING COMMENTS

More frequent collections.
Recycling facilities are good. (7)
Better recycling facilities.
All recycling banks situated in one area. (11)
Improved signage to recycling areas.
Specific list of what can be recycled.
Cost breakdown of savings made to be published locally.
Recycling bins around the area alongside waste bins. (2)
Move glass bins away from children's play area.
Widen the scope of recycling, eg tetra packs, books, CDs / DVDs. (13)
"Exchange" area for unwanted / desired items.
A bin for cardboard. (3)
A bin for clothing / shoes. (7)
More / bigger bins. (4)
Bigger blue bin.
Composting bins.

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Plastic recycling bank. (8)

Recycling of cans and newspapers.

Portable bottle bank for storing bottles in before taking to the recycling bank. (2)

Home collection of glass bottles. (23)

Door step collection of more articles.

A container for cartons.

Allow all recycling materials to be placed in blue bins.

Free green waste collection. (10)

Community composting of green waste and kitchen waste.

Introduce penalties for those who do not recycle.

NotM would welcome mains sewerage instead of septic tanks.

Bottle bank at NotM.

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APPENDIX 7 TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY: COMMENTS

N.B. Multiple responses in brackets.

Resurface Leamington Lane. (7)
Repair roads to a good standard. (6)
Fresh coating of tarmac on frequently used roads.
Resurfacing of all roads.
Widening of Leamington Lane and add edging. (2)
Drop from road edges onto verges.
Lack of kerbs on Park Road, Leamington Lane and east and west of school.
Road surface at Coast View needs work.
Change road surface to slow traffic.
New roads.
Too many roads too narrow.
Width restrictions on single track roads.
Too many heavy vehicles on narrow roads.
Make a tractor lane. (2)
Repaint all white lines, especially at junctions. (3)
Improve layout / visibility of Leamington Lane / The Avenue crossroads.
Better road markings and signage.
The Avenue drain pipes should be replaced where tree roots have damaged them, this would prevent flooding.
Surface water drains on Studley Drive to prevent junction with Leamington Lane turning into an ice rink in winter.
Double yellow lines at school junction. Inconsiderate parking causes risks. (2)
No parking on Swarland Village side of crossroads at school.
Stop cars parking outside school - car park should be enlarged / parents encouraged to walk their children to school.
Parking close to school junction when dropping off and picking up kids. (3)
Children are not safe.
School crossing.
Lollipop person.
Police should stop children playing ball games at bus stop.
Teach children road sense and not to play on roads. (2)
Proper supervision of children and dogs on paths.
Roads too narrow to walk along. (2)
More footpaths / pavements. (2)
Lack of pavement / footpath / verges. (7)
Pavements blocked with overgrown hedges in summer. (2)
Need footpath on Leamington Lane. (9)
Lack of footpath along Park Road. (3)
Lack of footpath between Percy Wood & school crossroads. (4)
Lack of footpath along The Avenue.
Pavements in NotM need smoothing out, pavement west of NotM too narrow. (2)
Street lighting. (3)
Better lighting. (2)
Lighting on The Avenue. (2)
Lack of lighting to Village Hall / WMC.
Safer roads.
Speed restrictions on Leamington Lane and NotM roads. (3)

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Traffic far too fast along The Avenue, especially commercial vehicles.
Putting 30 mph limit at bottom of Leamington Lane.
Signs that light up 30mph (or your speed) when approached. (8)
30mph repeater signs and flashing 30 mph signs. (6)
Riveted road surface to remind people of their speed.
More frequent police speed checks. (2)
Speed cameras on the approach to the villages and around school. (4)
Reduce speeding by having police with radar guns. Having police sitting where they are visible the full length of The Avenue does not work. (2)
If one or two persistent offenders were to be fined this might help.
Camera device used by villagers with support of local police.
Leave the pot holes, they are natural traffic-calmers.
Are they unsafe? What is the problem? Bring in the occasional speed camera.
Don't implement any calming schemes.
Speed bumps make noise for those living by, and also cars speeding up after these measures cause more noise. (2)
20mph residential streets through villages (especially around 1st school). (12)
Warning on entering Studley Drive, it has 30mph sign, some people therefore drive at this speed thinking it is acceptable, but it is not. Hedges need to be cut back neatly.
Bus shelter on Leamington Lane - children & young people waiting for the bus can obscure vision. Or in all weathers - a shelter would provide both safety & protection from the elements.
Overhanging branches on Park Road.
Passing places where possible.
Mirrors on corners.
Driving in the middle of the road.
Blind exits. (2)
Riding a horse on narrow lanes.
Bus traffic and caravan park traffic.
Early morning gritting in icy conditions.
Slip road off A1 to NotM coming from south to north.
Better demarcation of turn off to NotM coming from north to south on A1.
NotM - one way system around Cook & Barker. (2)
NotM - parking on the road in places causes traffic movement to be obscured.
NotM - encourage residents at top of hill at North side of C&B to park in lane behind their homes.
Classify road through NotM as unsuitable for heavy vehicles.
Keep heavy vehicles off roads. Ban heavy lorries on the Longframlington / Felton Road except for local deliveries. (2)
Stop all cars parked outside and opposite Swarland Garage.
Education over regulation! Short articles in the parish newsletter on highway code etc.
Would not support anything which leads to a proliferation of signs. (2)
Significant slip roads off A1, junction markings need improving.
A1 a concern - needs improved access and reduction of speed limit at access points and crossings.
Cycle track next to A1 from Swarland to Alnwick.

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APPENDIX 8 TRANSPORT: COMMENTS

Any would be good.

May be interested in like to Felton depending on what the bus service is like from Felton.

Services should be on a par with Felton.

Felton bus to come via villages.

A link with the buses to / from Newcastle - now stopped coming into Swarland. Every hour.

Particular time of day *N.B. Multiple responses in brackets.*

Morning and afternoon. (21)

Mornings and evenings. (8)

Weekend. (9)

Weekends and evenings. (6)

Three or four times daily. (2)

10am and 3pm daily. (2)

Mornings. (9)

Lunchtime. (3)

9am to link with Felton 9.25am return bus between 3 and 4pm from Felton. (2)

Tuesday morning. (2)

Wednesday morning.

Tuesday and Friday mid-morning.

Thursday or Friday mid-morning return mid-afternoon.

Afternoons.

Friday mornings.

All the time - I feel trapped in my village.

Wednesday mid-afternoon.

Mon, Wed, Fri mornings.

Car Share

Don't leave the village at regular intervals.

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APPENDIX 9 EDUCATION: COMMENTS

Pre school

Daily pre school with regular times - why not a nursery as in Felton.
Make use of the empty sports club for pre-school sessions.
More for under-2s needed and longer hours for all pre-school children.
Could do with a full-time nursery.
School needs to participate in village events.
All parents need to consider other road users when parking.

Adult Classes suggested:

N.B. Multiple responses in brackets

Languages (28)
Computers (28)
Fitness (12)
Art (5)
Craft (4)
Ballroom & Latin American (4)
Local history (4)
Cookery (4)
Yoga (4)
Dancing (3)
Music (3)
Calligraphy (3)
Genealogy (3)
Bridge (3)
Photography (3)
Pottery (2)
Stained glass workshop (2)
Sailing
Dressmaking
Literature / book club
Guitar
Badminton
Electronics
Mechanics
First aid
General studies
Natural history
Environmental issues
DIY
Gardening
Creative writing
Sugar craft
Flower arranging
Rug making
Woodwork
General interest in the afternoons
Formal and non-formal education

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Sufficient in Alnwick and Shilbottle and not fully subscribed.

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APPENDIX 10 LOCAL DEMOCRACY: COMMENTS

N.B. Multiple responses in brackets

An official welcome pack for all new householders.

Better understanding within the community of the role of the Parish Council. (5)

Parish Council should have a simple priorities / objectives statement.

Councillors sometimes seem to be out of touch with the community. How do they ensure they are representing the community rather than their own issues?

Are they regulated, elected? What is the person spec for a Parish Councillor?

A smaller elected Parish Council.

Attended once and they Councillors are very old school and unwelcoming.

There is nothing democratic about the Parish Council - how many are elected?

I feel that most councillors mean to serve their own ends (not to the benefit of the public).

More interaction from the Councillors - should call on people at home. (2)

Individual Councillors do not seem to sound out parishioners for their views on specific issues, yet their job is to represent us.

Parish Councillors should be elected otherwise not democratic.

As answered no all questions I would suggest you need better communication.

Allow younger people to come and tell them when it is on.

Should actively seek and encourage wider age range of Councillors.

Parish Council drop-in days in the Village Hall.

Updates in the Column.

Wider circulation of The Column (PWCP).

Column includes some PC information however perhaps it could now be emailed to people.

Communicate by newsletters. (6)

Include the minutes in The Column newsletter. (2)

Other than the Column the parish does not seem to do anything for newcomers.

Newsletter following council meetings.

Web site. (5)

Email newsletter. (3)

Publish Parish Council Annual Plan.

Use leaflets and posters to communicate.

Tell the villagers what is happening.

Minutes should be circulated to residents who request them.

Post box or suggestion box to communicate with parish councillors.

Use of noticeboards to disseminate information. (2)

Communicate through easy to read information on new notice board in the square.

Information on notice board is perfectly adequate – and cheap.

Lack of information.

Annual meeting for the public and parish councillors an “open meeting” not the regular kind.

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APPENDIX 11 FUNDING OF IMPROVEMENTS: COMMENTS

N.B. Multiple responses in Brackets

By local council - but no increase. (5)
 Local activities - social nights etc.
 Sponsorship.
 By builders who build larger scale housing developments.
 More cooperation between local groups.
 Lottery money. (5)

APPENDIX 12 UNDER-13S': COMMENTS

Most Like About Living in the Parish

8	Play park
6	Countryside / woods
6	School
6	People
6	Village Shop and Post Office
5	The Sports Club
4	Nature and wildlife
4	Golf Club and driving range
3	Red Squirrels
3	Low crime
3	Friendly
2	Keeping my horse at the equestrian centre
2	The Emus
2	Quiet
1	I like the nice houses
1	Not many cars
1	Small Villages
1	Pretty
1	Well organised
1	Nice houses
1	Safe and secure
1	Low crime
1	Ability to have broadband
1	Conker trees
1	Peaceful
1	Low level of through traffic

Least Like About Living in the Parish

8	Would like more buses
5	No clubs for children or teenagers
4	Inconsiderate drivers/speeding drivers
3	Litter
3	Too much dog poo
4	Unfinished roads
2	Caravan Park
2	Lack of shops
1	Lack of footpath on Leamington Lane
1	Lack of mobile phone signal
1	Unreliable internet
1	Buses expensive
1	Sometimes boring
1	Shop expensive
1	Graffiti in play park
1	Lack of people
1	Lack of swimming pool
1	Lack of care
1	More could be done with Vyner

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	Park
1	Noise pollution
1	Not enough pavements
1	No doctor in the village
1	No gas network
1	Only a First School