



Neighbourhood Development Plan

Project Brief

Introduction

Rennington Parish Council is the qualifying body. It is a small rural parish approximately 4 miles inland from the Northumberland coastal area of outstanding natural beauty.

It comprises 2 main settlements; Rennington and Rock, and a number of outlying communities. The Parish has a population of approximately 400 people.

Agriculture is the main economic activity, although its importance to the Parish is changing from traditional tenanted to contract farming practices. In addition there are two small industrial areas.

Being adjacent to the coast has an impact on the age demographic of the area, with a higher than average proportion of the population being above state pension age. Also, there are a number of second homes and holiday cottages.

Through the Neighbourhood Plan we are seeking to:

- Support and encourage economic diversification and growth
- Achieve a more equal age demographic
- Encourage a vibrant and sustainable community.

Vision

To embrace the need for change and to meet the expanding needs of a growing population whilst protecting those important things that have attracted generations of people to choose Rennington Parish as a place to live and raise their families.

Community Engagement

In September 2021 a drop-in event was held and a questionnaire was delivered to every home in the Parish. Detailed responses and analysis of the can be found on Rennington Parish Council's website

(<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/rennington/documents/neighbourhood-plan>)

Our preliminary analysis (in no particular order) suggests:

- Local Amenities and Community Facilities
 - Nomination of community assets.
 - Identification of possible areas for social housing, village hall parking, village pond/orchard, play area, EV charging points
- Environment
 - Dark skies
 - Recycling
 - Protection of farm/pasture land
 - Rewilding – village pond/orchard/wildflower meadow
- Transport
 - Public footpaths/cycle ways, maintenance and extension to provide connectivity to coast and Alnwick.
 - Road safety – speed limits, footpaths, by-pass
 - Public transport – bus service/community bus
- Housing
 - Design code
 - Development based on need not speculation
 - Social/shared ownership
 - Settlement boundary for Rock
 - Where to build
 - Residency restrictions
- Local Economy
 - Support agriculture, hospitality, retail, local artisan industry
 - Redevelopment of redundant agricultural buildings to commercial/light industry

Scope of Work

To guide and assist Rennington Parish Council in writing a Neighbourhood Plan from the formulation of policies through to referendum.

Additional technical studies may include a design code, housing needs survey and, if required, a call for sites.

Key milestones will include:

- Completion of technical studies
- Formulation of draft policies
- Resident consultation and feedback
- Finalisation of policies and submission to the independent examiner
- Sign off by the independent examiner.

Management Arrangements

The Neighbourhood Plan has been sponsored by Rennington Parish Council, who have ultimate management responsibility. Day to day organisation is performed by a working group made up of Parish Councillors and residents of the Parish.

Quotes for this role are to be submitted to the Parish Clerk together with a CV (renningtonpc@gmail.com) by 4pm on 13th July 2022 for consideration by the Parish Council.

The Northumberland County Council link officer is Sarah Brannigan.

Timetable

Rennington Parish Council started work on developing a Neighbourhood Development Plan in the summer of 2021. Progress has been delayed by uncertainty over grant funding.

As a result of the latest funding by the DLUHC our aim is to have submitted a finalised Neighbourhood Plan for independent examination by the end of this financial year (31st March 2023). The Parish Council will be looking to the selected planning consultant to assist the working group produce a realistic project plan