



QUESTIONNAIRE

This is an ideal opportunity for you and your family to influence the outcome of your own neighbourhood plan whilst also responding to some key, and potentially controversial, issues raised in NCC's draft Core Strategy. The Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan, currently being developed by a team of local residents working on behalf of the Town Council, will, if approved in a referendum, enable the local community to decide its own vision for Ponteland going forward and, most importantly, to determine future local planning policy in a way that currently is not permitted. However, legislation dictates that those policies will ultimately need to align with the broader Core Strategy for growth and development in Northumberland drawn up in draft form by the County Council and currently at consultation stage.

HOUSING

YES UNSURE NO

1 The draft Core Strategy recently published by Northumberland County Council proposes that Ponteland should contribute an additional 850 new houses over the next 20 years.

1.1 Do you support that proposal?

1.2 Would you support that proposal if it did not require the loss of green belt?

2 There is a chronic shortfall of affordable housing and housing for the over 60s both nationally and locally. With this in mind would you agree with the following:-

2.1 More affordable housing should be provided in Ponteland?

2.2 Affordable housing should comprise a mix of rental and ownership?

2.3 There should be more provision of housing suitable for retirees?

2.4 There should be more residential style care homes in Ponteland?

2.5 Housing mix and tenure should be left to market forces?

3 Do you agree that new housing should preferably be on 'brown field' sites only i.e. previously developed land

4 If Green Belt land has to be released for housing should this be:-

4.1 Close to the village centre with pedestrian and cycle links?

4.2 Away from the village centre in smaller developments with separate access?

4.3 Left to market forces to bring sites forward?

TRANSPORTATION & HIGHWAYS

5 The provision of a northern by-pass to Ponteland would help to reduce congestion in the village centre, allow more of the village centre to be developed and potentially create small peripheral sites suitable for play areas, care and housing use.

5.1 Would you support that proposal in principle if a suitable route could be agreed?

5.2 Do you agree that developers who would add to traffic volumes in Ponteland should contribute towards the cost of a future by-pass as a condition of their planning approval?

6 Do you consider the traffic congestion in the vicinity of school entrances to be dangerous as well as inconvenient?

7 Do you think that there should be more cycle lanes in and around Ponteland?

8 Do you think that in Ponteland cycling is a safe alternative to motorised transport?

9 Are car parking facilities in Ponteland adequate?

10 Do you think that it would be a good idea to bring the Metro into Ponteland?

We Suggest that the proposed growth of numbers of dwellings is excessive.

We suggest this as previously developed land that is available within 5 miles of Ponteland has not been taken into account - A Freedom of Information request made March 2013 indicated 51.11 hectares of "brownfield" land is deliverable and developable within 5 miles of Ponteland centre - That is the equivalent in size to 102 international rugby pitches.

DRAINAGE & FLOODING

YES UNSURE NO

11 Since Ponteland Village Centre was last flooded, defence measures have been implemented, but there are still weak points that may be overtopped in severe conditions (1 in 100 year floods) and which require emergency works to protect property.

- 11.1** Is this position acceptable?
- 11.2** Should funding be made available to provide improved defences?
- 11.3** Would you like to see a Community Agreement set up which makes arrangements for local groups, (e.g. flood action groups or flood wardens) to take initial actions and provide advice following a flood warning being issued?

12 New developments are required to control the rate of water draining into watercourses and sewers by measures known as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). In most cases in Ponteland these will require storm water to be stored at locations from where it can be discharged at a controlled rate into watercourses.

- 12.1** Do you consider SuDS to provide an appropriate means of reducing the risk of flooding from new developments?
- 12.2** Do you agree that open channels and storage ponds should be located away from areas of family housing and made inaccessible to young children?

13 Many properties have watercourses running through or adjacent to gardens. Advice on responsibilities for watercourse maintenance and flooding is set out in the following leaflets:-

Living on the Edge – Environment Agency

Roles and Responsibilities for Flooding – Northumberland County Council

- 13.1** Are you aware of these documents?
- 13.2** Do these documents provide you with the information you need?

BUSINESS, RETAIL & EMPLOYMENT

- 14** Do you shop in Ponteland for your primary groceries and fresh produce?
- 15** Would you prefer to shop in Ponteland if it catered for more of your needs?
- 16** Does the centre of Ponteland need a greater variety of shops?
- 17** Does the condition of the buildings discourage you from shopping in Ponteland?
- 18** Are there enough cafes, bars and restaurants in Ponteland?
- 19** Would you prefer to work in Ponteland if you could?
- 20** Do you think that a modern business hub in or near to the centre would encourage more businesses to settle and stay in Ponteland?
- 21** Do you think that construction of a by-pass and the pedestrianisation of the village centre would create new business opportunities?
- 22** Do you agree that Ponteland needs to retain an industrial estate?
- 23** Should the industrial estate eventually be relocated to a peripheral location to free up land near the village centre for other uses?

CONSERVATION & HERITAGE

- 24** Do you think protection should be extended to include the trees and green spaces on the approach roads to Ponteland and on other council owned land?
- 25** Do you think that there should be a programme to reduce the amount of commercial and highway signs in the Conservation Area?
- 26** Should the Conservation Area be reviewed and extended to include adjacent areas of particular interest and merit?

We suggest this to assist in maintaining the unique character of Ponteland

EDUCATION, YOUTH & LEISURE

- 27** Are the pre-school and after-school provisions adequate at our local school?
- 28** Should more community use be made of school buildings and playing fields?
- 29** Are the adult learning facilities in Ponteland satisfactory?
- 30** Are there enough activities available locally for young people?
- 31** Are there enough recreation areas available in Ponteland for young people?
- 32** Are there sufficient leisure facilities available in Ponteland for adults?

HEALTH & THE ELDERLY

YES

UNSURE

NO

33 Health:-

- 33.1** Is the location of the Medical Centre satisfactory? YES UNSURE NO
- 33.2** Do you have difficulty safely accessing the Medical Centre?
- (a)** By Car YES NO
- (b)** By Public Transport YES NO
- (c)** On Foot YES NO
- 33.3** Do you consider that the optician services available locally are satisfactory? YES UNSURE NO
- 33.4** Do you have access to an NHS dentist in Ponteland? YES NO
- 33.5** If not, would you prefer to have access to an NHS dentist in Ponteland? YES UNSURE NO

34 The Elderly:-

- 34.1** Are you aware of the activities available for older people in Ponteland? YES NO
- 34.2** If you are over 60 do you use any of these activities? YES NO
- 34.3** Would you wish to stay in Ponteland as you get older? YES UNSURE NO
- 34.4** Do you think there is sufficient suitable housing available to enable you to do this? YES UNSURE NO
- 34.5** Do you use the facilities in the village centre? YES UNSURE NO
- 34.6** Can you easily access these?
- (a)** By Car YES NO
- (b)** By Public Transport YES NO
- (c)** On Foot YES NO

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- 35** Should there be restrictions on the type of front boundaries allowed on new developments in order to maintain/enhance wildlife corridors? YES UNSURE NO
- 36** Should Tree Preservation Orders be extended, where possible, to all properties in Ponteland in order to maintain/enhance wildlife habitats? YES UNSURE NO

ABOUT YOU

- Your Postcode
- Your Sex M F
- Your Age <18 18-30 31-50 50+
- Years Lived in Ponteland Yrs

WHAT TO DO NOW!

Please place your completed questionnaire in a sealed envelope marked '**PONTELAND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP**' in one of our collection boxes at one of the 'drop off' points listed below by the closing date of **Friday 6th December 2013**:-

- **Ponteland Town Council Office, Meadowfield Court**
- **Ponteland Care Centre, Meadowfield – the Community Services reception (Tue to Fri)**
- **Darras Hall Clinic, Broadway (Mon to Fri)**
- **Sainsbury's Supermarket, Ponteland – Main exit till**
- **Waitrose Supermarket, Ponteland – Customer service counter**

Alternatively you can post your completed questionnaire to:

Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan Group, Ponteland Town Council, Meadowfield Industrial Estate, Ponteland, Northumberland, NE20 9SD

Responses are welcome from all members of your family. You can download further copies of this questionnaire from our website at www.pontelandneighbourhoodplan.co.uk or simply photocopy this pull-out.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TAKING PART IN OUR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION.
YOUR VIEWS DO MATTER AND THEY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**