

NEW HARTLEY VILLAGE PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2015

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ABOUT THIS PLAN

In January 2015, Seaton Valley Council commissioned Your Back Yard to consult local people and organisations in order to draw up village plans for each of the villages in Seaton Valley, plus a 'valley-wide' plan. During March to May 2015, Your Back Yard consulted local people through a survey of residents and public meetings in each village, plus discussions with organisations working in the area, engagement with the local schools, and detailed conversations with Seaton Valley Council.

Village plans have been drawn up based on the views expressed in this consultation: this is the village plan for New Hartley, which reflects feedback from local people and organisations that work in the village. It is not a legal document, but sets out some practical steps that can be taken to improve the village. People from the New Hartley community can lead on some of them, while others will need to be led by Seaton Valley Council, working with local people. It is intended that the Plan can be used by local people and organisations to help in their planning and seeking support or funding for their activities.

The results of the consultation for New Hartley and the results from Seaton Valley as a whole, together with the Valley Wide Plan are available on request from Seaton Valley Council.

ABOUT NEW HARTLEY

New Hartley is a small village to the north of Seaton Delaval with a population of around 2,000 people. It is a former mining village, with a strong identity, partly associated with the New Hartley Colliery disaster of 1862.

Village facilities include a school (New Hartley First School), a community centre, post office, a shop, a pub and the Victory Club and two churches (St Michael and All Angels and Our Lady & St Joseph). It has recently been subject to a planning application for new housing development on the eastern edge of the village, which has generated significant local opposition.

LOCAL PEOPLE'S PRIORITY ISSUES

The main issues that were identified through consultation were:

INAPPROPRIATE OVERDEVELOPMENT

The people of New Hartley were very clear that the most significant issue for their village was the threat of development that was seen by most respondents as inappropriate overdevelopment of the village

There was a strong feeling that this would impact on the tranquil nature of the village, and put pressure on the capacity of local services and infrastructure. Concerns focused on the impact on local roads arising from more traffic to and from the development, and the impact on the local school from increased numbers of children living locally.

There was very clearly a passionate commitment to retaining the current character of the village, reflected in the fact that two of the most commonly mentioned strengths of the village were its small size and quiet, peaceful nature. Local people expressed a strong preference for developing a Neighbourhood Plan as the best way to manage the development pressure on the village. While most residents conceded that it was unlikely that this would be able to stop all proposed developments indefinitely, there is a clear desire to ensure that any developments are of the right scale, provide a balance of affordable housing, and that there is appropriate investment in local infrastructure and services – especially school places and the road network, to accommodate any additional population.

THE IMPACT OF PARKING, TRAFFIC AND SPEEDING IN THE VILLAGE

Parking scored the highest of all the 'problems' consulted on, over 3.5 out of 5 and higher than the average for Seaton Valley. Several comments highlighted this as a significant problem for residents both practically and for its impact on the look and feel of the village. The main issues appear to be the impact of parking along Bristol Street, the main road through the village. This takes three forms:

- > People parking on the grass verges, causing damage
- > People parking on both sides of the road, restricting access for larger vehicles
- > People parking on the footpaths, restricting access for wheelchairs and buggies

Many residents also highlighted traffic and particularly the speed of traffic as an issue, which also scored higher than the average for Seaton Valley as a problem. There is no controlled crossing point on the main road through the village, seen by some as a potential danger for children.

THE APPEARANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE ON DOUBLE ROW

Consultees highlighted a number of concerns about the industrial area on Double Row, the principal route into New Hartley from Seaton Delaval. The concerns included:

- > inconsiderate parking, making the road difficult and dangerous for both pedestrian and road users
- > the visible appearance of the area, with large amounts of litter and neglected sites giving a poor impression
- > the movement of industrial vehicles, such as fork lift trucks, along the highway making access to the village difficult at times

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES

Poor public transport came up as a significant issue for some New Hartley residents, satisfaction with public transport was much lower in New Hartley than the average for Seaton Valley, and better public transport services were a key improvement suggested by some residents.

New Hartley's main bus service is the X4 (Arriva) service between Blyth and Newcastle. While this is a good service, any residents wishing to travel to destinations such as Cramlington, Whitley Bay, North Shields or North Tyneside Hospital (Rake Lane) have to change buses. There are other services, such as the C3 (Arriva) and the H1 (Phoenix Taxis) which both run between Seaton Sluice and Cramlington, but these are far less frequent services.

The proposed reopening of passenger rail services on the Ashington-Blyth-Tyne line that passes by New Hartley provides an opportunity to improve public transport services for the village.

THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Generally, residents were very happy with the environment of New Hartley Village. However, dog fouling, the condition of footpaths, litter and overgrown trees and bushes and other local issues were identified by some residents.

ACTION PLAN

This section of the Village Plan sets out specific actions that could be taken forward in New Hartley to address the priority issues that were identified by local residents.

People in each of the villages of Seaton Valley identified similar issues around the local environment such as dog fouling and litter as priorities. Actions to address these issues are therefore dealt with across all of Seaton Valley through the Valley-wide plan, and are not described in this Plan. The valley-wide approach to improving environmental management will address the specific issues identified in New Hartley.

Action 1: Establish a Neighbourhood Plan for New Hartley

What is the aim? To develop a Neighbourhood Plan setting out residents' shared vision for the village, which could shape the type and design of any development in the village?

How could it be achieved? New Hartley Residents Association and Seaton Valley Council should seek support from Northumberland County Council to designate New Hartley as a Neighbourhood Plan area, and to develop the Plan.

Potential Partners Northumberland County Council

Next Steps Seaton Valley Council and New Hartley Residents Association to agree an approach to Northumberland County Council to request support to develop a Neighbourhood Plan.

Action 2: Develop an on-street parking scheme for Bristol Street

What is the aim? To reduce the impact of inconsiderate parking on Bristol Street, and encourage traffic to move more slowly.

How could it be achieved?	<p>Reducing the extent of the grass verges on Bristol Street, creating designated on-street parking bays, and preventing parking on the remaining grass verges with bollards.</p> <p>This would require a plan to be developed and agreed with Northumberland County Council as the Highways Authority.</p>
Potential Partners	Northumberland County Council
Next Steps	Seaton Valley Council to develop a proposed approach with the County Council Highways Department.

Action 3: Investigate a potential pedestrian crossing on St Michael’s Avenue

What is the aim?	To establish whether a case can be made to install a pedestrian crossing point on St Michael’s Avenue, between the play area and the shops.
How could it be achieved?	New Hartley Residents Association and Seaton Valley Council would need to find out what criteria the County Council use to decide whether to install a new crossing, and then to consider whether there is evidence to support the case for a crossing, based on traffic speeds and accident records.
Potential Partners	Northumberland County Council
Next Steps	Seaton Valley Council to identify the criteria used to decide on pedestrian crossings, and discuss these with New Hartley Residents Association.

Action 4: Investigate the feasibility of a raised pavement on the corner of Bristol Street and St Michael’s Avenue

What is the aim?	A raised pavement at the turning into St Michael’s Avenue could help to reduce speeds here, and could enhance the setting for the Church. The feasibility of this needs further consideration.
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How could it be achieved?	Northumberland County Council's Highways Department would be approached to consider the costs and impacts of such an approach. Funding would need to be sought for this measure.
Potential Partners	Northumberland County Council
Next Steps	Seaton Valley Council to discuss the potential for a raised pavement with the County Council.

Action 5: Encourage businesses on Double Row to take more care of the road and environment

What is the aim?	To reduce the impact on New Hartley residents arising from Double Row industrial estate.
How could it be achieved?	Seaton Valley Council to contact business owners on the estate, make them aware of resident's concerns, and encourage them to take steps to improve the care of the area and reduce parking impacts.
Potential Partners	Businesses in the industrial estate
Next Steps	Seaton Valley Council to contact businesses directly.

Action 6: Identify specific improvements to public transport that local people want to see and would use

What is the aim?	To gain a clearer picture of the top priorities for better public transport services for New Hartley. Suggested improvements included re-routing the No 19 bus service operated by Go North East to run through the village.
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How could it be achieved?	New Hartley Residents Association would survey local people to identify specific improvements to public transport services that most people want to see and would make use of.
Potential Partners	Northumberland County Council, Seaton Valley Council
Next Steps	New Hartley Residents Association to consider whether it is able to do this.



THE VALLEY WIDE PLAN

The following projects have been identified as priorities for action across the whole of Seaton Valley:

1. Developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Seaton Valley
2. Securing local stations on the Ashington-Tyne-Blyth train line
3. Seaton Valley Gateways
4. Visit Seaton Valley
5. Investigating the potential for a destination facility for young people
6. Neighbourhood Management Forum(s)
7. Environmental Task Force
8. Provide more support to enhance joint working across the valley

Copies of the Valley-wide plan are available from Seaton Valley Council.

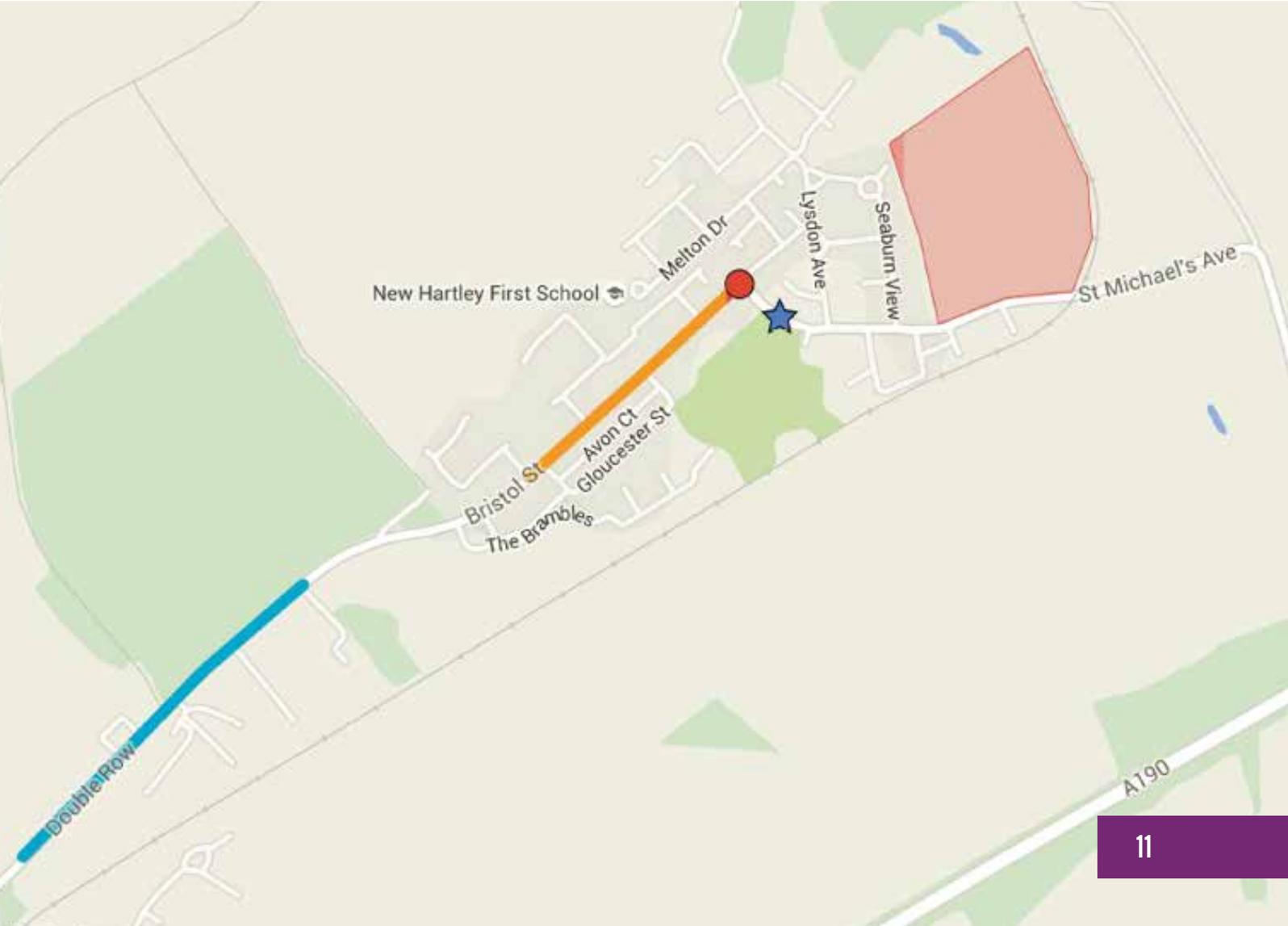
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Seaton Valley Council will work with local residents and organisations to deliver each of the actions listed in this Plan. Within one year, they will hold a public review of progress against the Action Plan, as part of a public Council meeting in New Hartley. This meeting will consider any changes or additions that need to be made to this Action Plan.

MAP HIGHLIGHTING POTENTIAL ACTION AREAS

Showing the locations of items mentioned in the Village Plan

		
Industrial estate improvements	Possible parking improvements	Site of Barratt's planning application
		
Possible Raised Pavement	Possible Road Crossing	





GET IN TOUCH

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