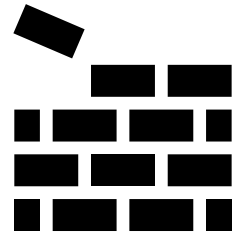


# SPECIAL EDITION



## Heddon on the Wall Parish Council Survey results



## Welcome

### Sharing our survey results



We wanted to say a huge thanks to all our village residents who completed the recent survey. We had a positive response rate of 46% with over 340 responses from the paper copies we delivered through the door and the option to complete the survey online. You shared lots of information about the village and there were some common themes about the things you like and the things that you would like to see improved.

Some of the common areas such as the state of roads and paths in the village are outside of the Parish Council's responsibility but we know these are important to you so we will share ways in which residents can raise their concerns with those who have responsibility for these areas. Keep reading to find out more.

## A HUGE THANKYOU!

During and since COVID we have undoubtedly experienced unprecedented times. Despite that, as a community, we have pulled together and strengthened our community kindness.

There are many unsung heroes in our village who spend a huge amount of time 'volunteering' in its broadest sense, this includes keeping the village and our environment looking great, supporting each other and those less fortunate and creating community groups.

The Parish Council would like to **thank each and every one of you** for all that you do.

There are lots of ways that you can get involved to support the village either in a formal or informal way. Find out more on page 6.



## HEDDON GOSSIP Latest news

Those who responded to our survey said they enjoyed their copy of the Heddon Gossip.

For the past few years, Anne Lockey has worked tirelessly to pull together the content, design the newsletter, print, and fold the copies for an army of additional volunteers to post them through our doors.

Anne has decided that post COVID, she is retiring from this role. The Parish Council, on behalf of the village, would like to thank Anne and her team for keeping us connected for such a long time.

The good news is that Ian Scott will have taken forward the publishing of Heddon Gossip. The Parish Council will have a regular slot in the Heddon Gossip alongside the updates we make through the Facebook pages.

Ian's contact details are on the back page and other ways that the Parish Council will communicate in the future.



Want to volunteer, but don't know where to start...  
Read more about our opportunities on page 5.



## About us

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:** To maintain and improve our village for all.

### THE ROLE OF YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Have you ever wondered what the Parish Council are responsible for and why we have one in Heddon on the Wall?

A Parish Council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish. Heddon on the Wall Parish Council sit within the hierarchy of Northumberland County Council. The Parish Council receive a small amount of our council tax (this is known as a precept) and these funds are used directly in the community.

As the authority closest to the people, the Parish Council are invariably the first port of call people go to with their concerns or ideas. Probably the most common topics that Parish Councils get involved with are planning matters where they are statutory consultees, crime prevention, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities.

However outside of the areas that we have direct responsibility for the Parish Council have limited powers to make decisions, but we do have the ability to negotiate and work with the organisations that do make the final decisions. In that respect, for these areas such as our roads and pavements, although we have a strong voice, this becomes more influential with the individual support of the parishioners.

The Parish Council meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Members of the public can request to speak at the meetings if they have requests or concerns that you would like to raise. The agenda and minutes from the meeting are all made public and shared on the notice boards and on the website.

### MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

The members of the Parish Council are all volunteers who live in the community. They bring different skills, perspectives and decision making to the Parish Council. If you are interested in joining the council then please contact the Parish Clerk.

#### Councillors

Paul Edwards (Chair)  
Richard Adams (Vice-chair)  
Lil Cruickshank  
Lesley Irving Munro  
Andrew Knox  
Adam Lillico  
Karen Dryden  
Di Keller

Additionally, there are two paid roles. The **Parish Clerk** (Louise Pringle) who is the first point of contact and manages the administration and governance. The **Assets Manager** (Kim Pearson) who looks after the registered assets except for Knott Memorial Hall.

Details of how to contact the Parish Council are on page 6.

### AREAS IN HEDDON ON THE WALL THE PARISH COUNCIL ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR

- **Welfare field** which is the area near the school which is sometimes called the MUGA (multi-use games arena) or the park.
- **Butterfly garden** in Heddon Common. Other areas of the common are either privately or Northumberland County Council owned.
- **Gorse Hill** and some of the grass verges near Antonine Walk, Valerian Avenue and Camilla Drive.
- **Knott Hall**
- **Taberna Close**
- **Library and business units**
- **Allotments**
- **Selman Park**
- **Memorial Park**



The roads, pavements and most of the other grassed areas are managed by Northumberland County Council. The Parish Council can make requests for repairs or improvements to these areas but are not directly responsible. Some of the other grassed areas in the village are the responsibility of Karbon Homes. If you have any queries, the Parish Clerk can answer these for you.

## And the survey said...



### About the survey

We worked with local enterprise Community Action Northumberland who analysed the data and shared a report on the results. The report is available on the Heddon Parish Council website. This alongside the comments that were also captured will form part of our immediate and long terms plans. We recognise that we only heard from part of our community, so for some of our projects we may ask you some more questions. This is just to ensure that we provide the best services and wellbeing for our community and to spend your money wisely in our developments.



### Progress made already!

Some of the areas you mentioned in the survey were already in our plans. We have made improvements to the following;

- **MUGA** – this has been resurfaced, the line markings redrawn, and the basketball hoops improved. The goal posts will be upgraded soon.
- **Welfare field** – the delapidated / unsafe equipment was removed, and new surfaces placed under the remaining equipment.
- **Memorial Park** – improvements to the Memorial Park grounds and long-term plans for planting and maintaining this site are underway. We have installed a water hose at the Knott Hall to help with this. The Memorial has also been resurfaced clearing the algae and re-leading the lettering.
- **Woodland improvements** – the grass verges along some of Hexham Road have been improved including cutting back trees and overgrowth to help to keep the area free from litter and continue to be maintained. It also improves the visibility of the road signs.
- **Bins** – we have continued to improve the access to bins! We have also installed poo bag dispensers at both ends of the Welfare field.
- **Safety gate** – the gate at the end of the Welfare Field that faces onto the road to Horsley has been replaced to meet higher safety standards.
- **'Tommy' remembrance statues** – these have been installed to some of the entries to the village.
- **Notice boards** – these have been renewed around the village providing a great source of information for our village and the tourists.
- **New website** – providing local business and tourist information alongside the information about the Parish Council.

### Things we're working on...

The pandemic has slowed some progress the Parish Council were hoping to make. As we are moving into a more 'normal' world these will continue to be developed. These include;

- **A69 slip road** – Clearance of bridle ways into the village. We have been working closely with NCC and are hoping that this work will progress following the nesting season.
- **Butterfly garden** – there is a fantastic Roman Garden, Arbeia, at South Shields Fort. There are elements of this that we can recreate on the Butterfly Garden, and we are exploring this with Heddon First School to see if we can actively engage together.

### Residents can have their say...



There are lots of areas that were highlighted in the survey that are outside of the direct control of the parish council such as;

- Speeding/traffic calming
- Condition of roads, paths and walkways
- Recycling
- Large commercial vehicles
- Bus routes
- Cycle paths
- Road signage

Although we have an opportunity as a Parish Council to influence in these areas, our strongest asset is our 'community voice'. The power of our residents coming together in unity to challenge the providers of these services and contacting them individually or as a collective will strengthen our appeal for action. There are some of the contact details on the back page.

## Future plans and ideas

### Future plans

We're currently reviewing the following ideas.

- Better use of the library and facilities (i.e., photocopy service).
- Improved communication with other user groups in the village such as Heddon First School, the Residents' Association and other community groups and our local businesses.
- A summer fare for 2022
- Christmas lights for 2021
- Increasing the information points to attract tourists to the area and the businesses based here.
- An annual calendar of events and village activities
- Supporting interest groups to sustain and grow.

### BUSINESS

We have a thriving variety of businesses in an around Heddon and we recognise that most of them have been substantially impacted over the recent months. We would like to understand how we can support businesses.



- Would a local business event help?
- Access to use some of the village assets (library, open spaces etc)?
- Promotion and recommendations of your business
- Professional support with your business or setting up a new business?

Get in touch and let us know how we can help you.

### New ideas

There were a lot of great ideas from our survey of what activities that you would like to see in the village. From improving the welfare provision to more activities for the young and old. Some of these requests need volunteers, committees and funding. Grants are available but many of them can't be accessed by Parish Councils so need to be applied for through community groups. The Parish Council are here to support in developing ideas and where agreed provide some funding and welcome groups with interests in these areas to come forward and let us know your ideas for getting them up and running.



### OUR ENVIRONMENT

We received positive feedback in our survey with people telling us they love living in Heddon and its natural environment. We have always had keen volunteers for our gardens and planters. We want to try and bring this volunteer community back together and grow it following the pandemic. This is great for our village, and we know it's great for our wellbeing.

#### Adopt a planter

Do you fancy putting your green fingers to test and helping us make the village look great throughout the year? There are a number of planters in the village, and some are already regularly maintained. We are looking for new volunteers to adopt the planters, the Parish Council will support the initial investment in plants and compost and support new planters where needed. We will make an annual award for the best planter!

#### Memorial Park

We have had the advantage of many volunteers assisting around the village to maintain and improve the Memorial Park alongside the plans that our contractors have been working on to develop the shrubs and the main areas. For the Memorial Park, which is one of the primary sites in the village, we would like to welcome new volunteers to support parts of this area. We are also looking to recruit a gardener to take on some of this work.

#### Welfare field

We have already completed some work in this area, but we have had requests for additional facilities and play equipment perhaps for younger children, increased accessibility within the area and perhaps some exercise equipment such as fixed cross trainers. From the data of our survey, we know that we didn't hear from a broad range of age groups, and we will therefore be looking at further consultation for this area so that it appeals to our community.

#### Selman Park

Similar to the welfare field, we will be seeking further consultation for what additional facilities or uses that would be welcomed for this area now that we can re-open following the pandemic.

## Volunteering opportunities and ways to support



There are lots of people in our village who already volunteer whether it's informally such as picking up litter or helping others, working within some of the established community groups in the village or for some of the areas the village that the Parish Council are responsible for. We know that volunteering for projects that you are passionate about or that you have developed are the most successful. The Parish Council want to support these groups and to advocate and support more volunteers getting involved.

If you are currently volunteering or giving your time informally or are interested in getting involved but are not sure what to do or where to start, we will look to develop an approach to volunteering in the village that will keep people up to date with activities that they can get involved in or if you have an idea bring it to us! Lots of people said in our survey they would like to volunteer, so please get in touch with us and register your details, whether its and hour a month or an hour a day or just helping ad hoc on certain projects we want to make our volunteering flexible and provide something for everyone.

### How you might be able to volunteer...

**These are just a few of the ways we think you could help in the village, but there will be others. The more people that get involved in projects and community volunteering the more we can do together.**

Parish councillor  
 Adopt a planter  
 Memorial Garden  
 Butterfly Garden  
 Litter picking  
 Mentoring the Youth Council  
 Researching grant opportunities  
 Completing grant applications  
 Village assessor  
 Volunteer planning  
 Volunteer management  
 Newsletter and communications  
 Social media  
 Key stakeholder engagement

### Young voices

The village is for everyone, and we know that we don't always hear from younger voices. These are the people in our village who are still in apprenticeships or education. We want to encourage younger people to get involved in the Parish Council and are looking at different volunteering opportunities or a Youth Council. We will support and mentor the people in the group and hopefully provide some additional skills that will look great on the future CV's.

If you want to find out more or an informal chat please get in touch.

### Get in touch



t: **01661 854583**

e: **hedddonpc@gmail.com**



## Open Day & AGM

It is really important to us that we share the ideas that we have had from the survey to get broader feedback from the village as to the areas you would like us to prioritise. Our funds are not finite, and we need to look at the current maintenance and then where we could secure additional funds and grants for bigger projects.

This year we are going to run an open day combined with our AGM, where we can share some of the ideas we have had and you can give us your feedback and thoughts, this will help with our overall planning.

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# HEDDON ON THE WALL PARISH COUNCIL

## OPEN DAY AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Saturday December 18<sup>th</sup> 2021**

at the

**Knott Hall**

Refreshments will be served at 11am

Meet with your Parish Councillors, share your feedback on the plans our village have shared and join us for our AGM.



## Contacts and communications

### HEDDON PARISH

#### Heddon Parish Council



We hope to increase communications with the village through our Facebook page (Heddon Parish Council) and will continue to be accessible via email and telephone and sharing updates on our notice boards and through Heddon Gossip.

*Council Clerk:* Louise Pringle  
t: 01661 854583  
e: hedddonpc@gmail.com  
w: <https://heddon.parish-council.com/>

*Asset Officer:* Kim Pearson  
t: 01661 854583  
e: heddonassetsofficer@gmail.com

#### Knott Memorial Hall

*Committee Chairman:* Mike Laker  
*Caretaker:* Dennis McMillan  
e: dennismcmillan35@gmail.com  
t: 01661 853774  
*Secretary:* Sally Hulse  
e: salhulse@gmail.com  
*Hire & bookings:* Hazel Thompson  
t: 01661 853684.

#### Heddon Library and Business Centre

Towne Gate, Heddon on the Wall, NE15 0EJ  
t: 01661 853627  
*Lead volunteer:* John Gillott

#### Heddon Gossip

*Lead contact:* Ian Scott  
t: 07743 285502  
e: ianscottdesign@btinternet.com

**For emergency access to the defibrillator or to keys to access the gate to the Welfare Field for emergencies, this is held at the Post Office/Spar and they can be contacted on 01661 852276.**

Helping you stay connected to some of the key contacts that support our village.



Northumberland  
County Council

**For reporting missing bin collections, roads, pavements, signs and more, the links are available through the website.** The more per incidents, the higher the priority for action.

Northumberland County Council  
t: 0345 6006400  
w: [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

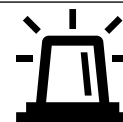
#### Peter Jackson (County Councillor)

County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF  
t: 07779 983422  
e: Peter.Jackson@northumberland.gov.uk

#### Guy Opperman (Local MP)

Constituency Office  
t: 01434 239 205  
e: [guy.opperman@parliament.uk](mailto:guy.opperman@parliament.uk)

### Emergency Services



Many of the respondents said they would like to see more presence in the village. We are very lucky that in Heddon we have very little crime, and although it would be great to still see a 'bobby on the beat', the Police are working with finite resources and must respond to where the crime is most prevalent. Our Police service does an amazing job in our region and have developed lots of ways for us to report crimes and antisocial behaviours alongside the 999 service. You can call 101 if you need to speak to someone quickly, report a crime or something of concern or and this can also be done through their website. Our local community police officers are Laura McCann and Tom Ward. This is the same with the ambulance and the fire service, they are extremely responsive, and the ambulance especially were phenomenal during lockdown.