

## **Beadnell Parish Council Community Survey Feedback 2020 - 21.**

In October 2020 Beadnell Parish Council delivered over 760 paper questionnaires to every house in the parish. The questionnaire was also available on Survey Monkey and the Parish Council website.

The questionnaire contained 4 questions and also asked for the person's connection to the parish.

- Q1 What would improve your life in the community?
- Q2 What do you think would improve lives in the community?
- Q3 What would you like to see to improve the local environment?
- Q4 What would you NOT like to see happen within your community?

The closing date for the consultation was 31 January 2021 although responses received after that date will be read and noted.

105 completed questionnaires were received - 58 paper and 47 electronic versions.

### **Connection to the Parish:**

Resident	56
Second Home Owner	21
Holiday Home Owner	8
Caravan owner	9
Business owner	8
Under 25 years	1
Not known	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>

## Background

Beadnell Parish covers 9 square miles with most lying within the North Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The 2011 Census showed 701 dwellings in the parish. This has since risen to approximately 790. 662 of these dwellings are in the AONB. Recent research showed only 162 (24%) of these are occupied by permanent residents, (down from 27% in 2014). 251 are Second Homes and 249 Holiday Homes 76% (73% in 2014).

In January 2020 Northumberland County Councils figures showed 564 (71%) of the properties in the parish, a mix of permanent and second homes, were registered to pay Council Tax. 226 (29%) of properties were registered as commercial Holiday Home businesses paying Business Rates. 158 (70%) of these were in receipt of Small Business Rates Relief and paid no Council Tax/ Parish Precept or Business Rates.

Over the past 5 years many new properties have been built in the parish but the number on the Electoral Roll has only increased by 14 (2016 379, 2021 393) The same figure has decreased 35% in the past 15 years. (2006 606, 2021 393)

## Results

The vast majority of the comments received on the questionnaires referred to no more Holiday Homes/Second Homes, no more new buildings or too many people ('Tourists') and too few permanent residents.

Many of the remarks covered more than one issue. These have been separated to allow statistical analysis. This resulted in over 600 different comments from the 105 responses received. These have been divided into different categories as follows.

### 1. Development. 115 comments (19%)

This was by far the most popular comment with nearly all respondents wanting no more house building, especially in the village. Property design, high rise building, estates of new build housing and the effects on infrastructure and green spaces were concerns.

- *No more development*
- *Stopping any further development to preserve village character (or what is left of it)*
- *No further extensions and new builds*
- *No new buildings but particularly large out of place holiday homes.*
- *No more caravan and camping facilities*

## 2. **Second Homes and Holiday Homes. 44 comments (7%)**

Many respondents were clear they wanted no more new or existing houses being turned into Second or commercially let Holiday Homes. Not knowing your neighbours, effect on property prices, unoccupied properties and making a financial contribution to the Parish Precept were all mentioned.

- *More of a balance between holiday homes and primary residency to maintain local community which encourages work, activities, services, amenities, social well-being.*
- *Less Buying to rent*
- *Change of use restrictions needed for all Holiday Houses and must be let out 45 weeks of the year*
- *A financial contribution from NCC in recognition that the holiday homes registered as a business do not contribute to the Parish Precept which creates a financial burden on the residents who have to pay the precept*

## 3. **Affordable Housing, Permanent Residences and Economy. 22 comments (4%)**

Whilst linked to sections 2 and 3 above many additional comments related to the need for more Affordable Housing, for sustainable employment not linked to tourism and enabling more young people to remain in the area.

- *Affordable housing that is available for local young people who come from the community and want to work here.*
- *Increase employment opportunities by creating a plan to attract investment into the village - artistic or "green" investment rather than tourist-based.*
- *More council housing to rent*
- *More opportunities for small businesses*

#### **4. Parking, Speeding, Roads. 81 comments (13%)**

There were numerous complaints about inconsiderate parking, parking on roads, speeding and the state of some roads and footpaths. A 20mph speed limit was requested especially on Harbour Road. A one way system in parts of the old village and yellow lines on some roads were suggested.

- *Sort the flooding that occurs on Seahouses Road beside the Bullring*
- *Increased parking charges for holiday makers with permanent residents being given free parking cards.*
- *Less traffic within the centre of the village*
- *Better control/allocation of public parking for visitors to the beach, better prevention of random parking along seafront roads.*
- *Less pot holes in the road and more footpath maintenance*

#### **5. Tourists and Tourism. 24 comments (4%)**

Respondents were concerned that, especially after the summer of 2020 with an unprecedented number of visitors, the village had reached saturation point. More emphasis on a year round economy and a danger that the village loses its appeal.

- *More emphasis on a year round economy not driven by tourism*
- *The numbers of visitors are causing concern for our environment and local resources and residents,*
- *The introduction of a visitor tax and the money used to improve the infrastructure and facilities in Beadnell Parish to provide a better experience for both residents and visitors*
- *A recognition that Beadnell Village, just like a theatre or a football stadium, has a finite capacity for visitors*

## **6. Dogs. 22 comments (4%)**

Uncontrolled dogs on the beaches and disposing of dog poo were a concern for many people. Some calling for restrictions during summer months and more enforcement.

- *Dogs on leads at the beach during busy periods.*
- *Most people now perceive the village and the county as 'dog friendly' hotspots.*
- *Enforcement against dog fouling*
- *Definitely fewer unrestrained (and uncontrolled!) visitor's dogs on the Haven beach harassing children and birds*

## **7. Dunes and National Trust. 27 comments (5%)**

Many people were concerned about dune erosion and wanted access to the Long Nanny via the beach to remain all year round.

- *Less dune erosion by the car park*
- *No restrictions on the beach due to the nesting birds - there hasn't been till last couple of years*
- *The local area is over run already and the dunes at Beadnell beach seem to be getting damaged more and more each year with the increase in visitors.*

## **8. Paths and Cycle Paths. 35 comments (6%)**

Extending the footpath from Beadnell to Swinhoe and repairing the existing section was popular with many people. New cycle paths and a new route from the Longbeach Drive area to Harbour Road and the village were mentioned. Pedestrian areas in the old village on safety grounds were called for.

- *Cycle/footpath all the way from Swinhoe including cutting back to original width and resurfacing present path.*
- *More, & better & safer, cycle paths for all ages to enjoy.*
- *Better walking route from new estate (St Ebbas way) to the village*
- *Introduce a pedestrian zone along Meadow Lane (where there is currently no footpath) to provide a safe zone for pedestrians wanting to access the play park and WI hall.*

## **9. Bins, Recycling and Litter. 27 comments (5%)**

Additional waste bins at various places in the village, more collection and recycling of glass, bins at Holiday Homes being left out and litter in general were all mentioned. A recycling facility in the centre of the village was requested.

- *I would like to see a significant increase in the number of bins in and around the village and on the pathway between Seahouses and Beadnell.*
- *Additional recycling facilities (especially glass) in the centre of the village*
- *Owners tend to leave their properties on Sundays and put their bins out then. However the Bin collection day is Thursday*
- *More signs to encourage people to take their rubbish home*

#### **10. Community. 28 comments (5%)**

Perhaps due to Covid 19 there was a call for more community events. There was a suggestion to welcome new residents and especially those moving into the permanent housing developments.

- *Somewhere outdoors for people to meet and socialise, residents and tourists. A public space with seating. There are a lot of lonely people living in the village.*
- *Community led social events to bring everyone together*
- *More for older children, there is nothing.*
- *More community events such as flower shows, a village Market day, charity events etc.*

#### **11. Beadnell Community Volunteers and Beadnell in Bloom. 8 comments (1%)**

The work of the many volunteers around the village was appreciated.

- *I must say, full marks to the volunteers who do the Lonnen and various flower troughs etc. around the village, and those who voluntarily help to pick litter and keep our beaches clean.*
- *The current flower arrangements are great and well done to the volunteers who plant and maintain them*
- *Keep supporting Beadnell Volunteers and Beadnell in Bloom. They do a great job.*

## **12. Broadband. 12 comments (2%)**

All respondents called for a faster more reliable service in the area.

- *Better Broadband provision throughout the village.  
Better mobile connection throughout the village.*
- *Faster more reliable internet*
- *Conduct a survey in the village over speed of Broadband provision, there are presently huge variations between some properties*

## **13. Tennis Courts and Playgrounds. 14 comments (2%)**

There were calls to provide access to tennis courts and adult exercise machines.

- *Adult exercise machines in the village playground.*
- *The play park is wonderful and thank you for the Parish Council's efforts to maintain it.*
- *Tennis and other sports options for fitness*

## **14. Allotments. 6 comments (1%)**

There were 6 suggestions that allotments be provided.

- *Allotments or a community garden/orchard*
- *Provision of allotments and parking for allotments*

### **15. Buses and Bus shelter. 16 comments (3%)**

Requests were made to maintain or extend the current bus service and provide a new Bus Shelter at the Bullring. Timetables were out of date or missing and the cost of travel high.

- *Cheaper bus fares. £12 for two adults from Beadnell to Bamburgh is very high.*
- *Shelters at all bus stops and timetables at Arriva bus stop*
- *More frequent bus service*

### **16. Toilets. 10 comments (1%)**

Public toilets nearer the shop and Haven beach and better facilities at the car park were requested.

- *Public toilets in the village.*
- *Provision of toilets near to the shop & Haven beach are essential.*

### **17. Street lighting, Electricity Poles. 9 comments (1%)**

There were calls to replace electricity poles with underground cables. To standardise street lighting and reduce light pollution.

- *Undergrounding the remaining overhead electricity cables on Harbour Road and the rest of the village.*
- *Less or lower light polluting street lighting*

### **18. W.I. Hall, Village Hall 8 comments (1%)**

The current village hall, the W.I. Hall, needed to be retained unless it could be replaced with a village hall offering better facilities including wi-fi and parking.

- *No (loss of) WI Hall unless it's replaced with better.*
- *A better Village Hall with off road parking and wi fi.*
- *Beadnell population is likely to grow in the near future as houses for permanent residence are proposed and built*

### **19. Harbour. 2 comments (1%)**

Comments about use of the Harbour and CCTV coverage.

- *Open Beadnell harbour to ALL not the few*
- *Why is there a CCTV camera at the harbour pointing along the beach? I don't understand why it needs to cover the whole bay*

### **20. Shop and Restaurant. 32 comments (5%)**

Respondents expressed support for the village shop but some felt the façade should be improved. They would welcome the return of a Post Office service and mainly supported the plan for a restaurant near the Car Park.

- *Take away fish and chips*
- *No Loss of shop.*
- *Ensuring that the mobile Post Office is retained*
- *Improve the appearance of the village shop*

## **21. Other comments. 40 (6%)**

There were many other comments including safety improvements in Beadnell Bay,

- *Always worry about jet skis during the summer months speeding around close to shore where children and adults swimming.*
- *No Loss of church services.*
- *Open to change as Beadnell completes the transition from traditional fishing village to desirable holiday location*

## **22. Suggestions. 22 Comments (4%)**

There were numerous suggestions for improvements including

- Information Boards around the village
- Making more use of the village green behind the church
- Finding a use for the phone box after it is disconnected
- Indoor activity centre
- Conservation projects
- Planting more trees
- Preserving the villages fishing heritage
- Electric car chargers in the car park