

Environment

West Bedlington residents enjoy multiple opportunities to experience the natural environment. We are blessed to have in our small Town such wonderful facilities as Attlee Park, Plessey Woods Country Park, Dr Pit Park and Humford Woods, as well as a significant number of designated open spaces. Whilst not all are under the control of the Town Council we would nevertheless welcome suggestions as to how these spaces and others might be developed in order that they might be improved and/or enjoyed by a wider cross section of our community. Any thoughts?

Community Well-being

The Town Council is committed to using both its resources and its influence to improving the well-being of residents. This can and does take many forms: from providing youth activities for younger members of society to supporting organisation offering cultural and sporting opportunities to their parents and grand-parents. The Town Council also organises a number of community events including the Bedlington Picnic and the August Street Fair. Just as important is ensuring that new housing developments are accompanied by appropriate adjustments to the Town's infrastructure, including health services and leisure facilities. The Town Council has already identified a need for dedicated leisure facilities but are there other improvements you would like to see?

The Local Economy

Increasingly West Bedlington residents find that they need to commute outside of the Town for work. Whilst development of the Town Centre will provide additional employment opportunities, of itself it is unlikely to make a significant difference to the current imbalance. Do you feel there is a need to develop wider employment opportunities within the Town or would that potentially impact adversely on the environment? How might we achieve a desirable balance?

Transport and Transport Infrastructure

Bedlington West currently enjoys a regular bus service with Newcastle and Cramlington to the South, Morpeth to the North and both Blyth and Ashington to the East. Other services provide access to local hospitals and to South Tyneside via the Shields Ferry. Looking to the future, there is the possibility of rail services to Newcastle with links beyond. Whilst some congestion is experienced in the vicinity of the Red Lion roundabout, traffic is generally free-flowing. The proposed Town Centre redevelopment will include significant car parking to complement that behind West Front Street, though time will tell if it is sufficient. Having regard to all these factors, do you feel there are further issues the Town Council should address in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan?

Housing

West Bedlington has seen significant house building over recent years with further development to come if, as seems likely, sites currently with outline planning permission get full approval. However all currently identified sites are likely to be fully developed by circa 2030 which leaves open the question of whether some further development during the years to 2040 might be desirable. If so, should such development focus on starter homes, social housing or accommodation more suited to our increasingly elderly population? Your thoughts would be welcome.