

WEST BEDLINGTON

Your feedback

Please use the space below to provide feedback on our draft plan (attach additional sheets if required).

Next steps...

- We will make changes to the plan following feedback and submit it to the county council;
- There will be more consultation undertaken by the county council;
- The plan will then be examined by an independent examiner who will decide if it meets the various legal requirements;
- There will then be a local referendum - if the majority of those voting are in favour of the plan, it will be brought into legal force and used in the determination of planning applications.

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet and we look forward to hearing your views.

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WEST BEDLINGTON

West Bedlington Town Council is leading the preparation of a neighbourhood plan for West Bedlington Parish

WE NEED YOUR VIEWS ON OUR DRAFT PLAN

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

- The opportunity for local communities to prepare a neighbourhood plan was introduced in 2011. It enables people living and working in an area to guide where and how future development happens;
- Neighbourhood plans are prepared by the local communities through their town and parish councils, rather than being prepared by Northumberland County Council;
- Our plan will be used to make decisions on planning applications, giving it genuine influence on the future of our area;
- Plans can include a range of policies, including those which: guide new development; conserve and enhance the environment; and support the provision of community facilities;
- Plans can also include community actions, which could be delivered by the town council as well as other local groups and organisations.



Plan preparation progress...

In 2019 we ask you for your help to agree a vision and objectives for our plan. Informed by this feedback, as well as lots of extra work we have now prepared a draft neighbourhood plan.

The draft plan includes 18 planning policies covering a range of issues which seek to protect what make our area special, as well as 7 community actions.

We need your feedback to ensure that our neighbourhood plan reflects your views.

How to get involved...

This leaflet provides a summary of the draft plan. The full draft plan and all of the supporting information is available on the town council website: westbedlington.org.uk/neighbourhood-planning/

If you do not have access to the internet, a hard copy of the plan and policies map can be provided on request. To request a hard copy please contact the town council using the details below.

You can submit comments in the following ways:

- By completing the form on the back of this leaflet and sending it to us at: West Bedlington Town Council, Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington, NE22 5TT; or
- By emailing your comments to: nplanwbtc@gmail.com



We need your comments on the draft neighbourhood plan by 7 April 2021

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Vision

The vision sets out what the West Bedlington Neighbourhood Plan intends to achieve over the plan period to 2036, it informs all of the draft planning policies and community actions contained in the emerging plan:

By 2036 West Bedlington will comprise a sustainable and cohesive community. There will be an appreciation of the importance of the heritage of the area, which is vital to the areas sense of place, as well as giving local communities a sense of belonging.

Improvements will have been made to the local environment, employment opportunities, services and facilities which will enhance the quality of life of residents. Communities will be well-connected, via sustainable transport routes to major employment opportunities as well as greater services and facilities beyond the plan area.

The important environmental and historic character of the area will have been maintained and enhanced by ensuring new development is of an appropriate scale and design, as well as reflecting the rural setting of the plan area. Important green spaces will be protected for the benefit of future generations.

Objective 1 - Quality of life

Policy WB1: Sustainable development

- Identifies the importance of using brownfield land before greenfield, protecting residential amenity, protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, as well as infrastructure.

Policy WB2: Design

- Requires new development to conserve local distinctiveness by responding to the character of the area.

Policy WB3: General location of new development

- Requires new development to be located within the Bedlington Settlement Boundary.

Policy WB4: Green Infrastructure

- Requires new development to protect the existing green infrastructure network within the parish.

Policy WB5: Biodiversity

- Requires new development to protect and enhance biodiversity.

Policy WB6: Local green space

- Proposes the allocation of 12 sites to be protected from development in accordance with national green belt policy.

Policy WB7: Protected open space

- Proposes the allocation of 34 sites which will be protected from development unless specific criteria are met.

Policy WB8: Heritage assets

- Requires new development to protect heritage assets.

Policy WB9: Shop fronts in Bedlington Conservation Area

- Supports the installation of new shop fronts where their design and materials respect the surrounding area.



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Objective 2 - Community well-being

Policy WB10: Housing mix

- Seeks to ensure that new housing meets identified local needs, not what housebuilders want to build.

Policy WB11: Affordable housing

- Requires the provision of affordable housing on sites of 10 or more dwellings.

Policy WB12: Community services and facilities

- Supports the provision of new services and facilities and seeks to resist the loss of existing facilities.

Policy WB13: Allotments

- Protects the two allotment sites from future development.

Policy WB14: Infrastructure

- Requires new development to provide infrastructure



Objective 3 - Local economy

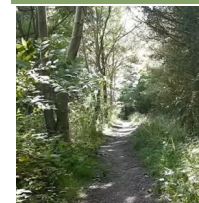
Policy WB15: Employment

- Supports proposals for the creation or protection of jobs.

Policy WB16 Bedlington town centre

- Supports development which would enhance the services and facilities within the town centre.

Objective 4 - Accessibility



Policy WB17: Active travel routes

- Protects the walking and cycling network within the parish and supports opportunities for its enhancement.

Policy WB18: Transport and new development

- Requires new development to be safely accessed, not significantly impact on traffic flows and provide appropriate parking provision.

Community actions

- **Action 1:** Developing a programme of community activities to celebrate the heritage of the area.
- **Action 2:** Preparing a townscape enhancement programme.
- **Action 3:** Working with the county council to better control dog fouling across the parish.
- **Action 4:** Working with the police and county council to more effectively tackle antisocial behaviour.
- **Action 5:** Working with the local community to compile a list of potential assets of community value.
- **Action 6:** Working with the county council to assess options for the introduction of parking restrictions to improve parking.
- **Action 7:** Working with local shops and community facilities to develop a 'community toilet scheme', where toilets are made available for public use during opening hours.

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