

# Newsletter

COTHERSTONE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Number 7 | April 2018



The purpose of this newsletter is to inform every resident of the Parish of the progress the Group has made in the ongoing development of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Cotherstone. A lot of work has been undertaken over the past 24 months on the development of Character Assessments and Policy statements to support the Plan. After a detailed review period with Durham County Council Planning Policy and Heritage Officers this work will form the basis for a 2nd consultation event.

## Cotherstone's Vision

*“The vision for the Parish of Cotherstone is of a place with the facilities, amenities and opportunities to help support a thriving and cohesive community. It will strive to cherish, preserve and enhance its essential rural character and setting and its wealth of heritage and natural assets for the benefits they bring to all who live, work within and visit the area.”*

## Objectives ~ Development of Policy Statements

### OBJECTIVE 1 – Heritage Assets

**“To identify, protect and enhance the diverse heritage assets of the Parish for present and future generations to better understand and enjoy”.**

*A detailed Character Assessment has been undertaken of the Village in accordance with a recognised toolkit adopted by Durham County Council (The Oxford Toolkit). A schedule of Designated and Non-Designated Heritage assets have been developed and Draft Heritage Policies produced.*

### OBJECTIVE 2 – Green Spaces and Village Setting

**“To identify, protect and enhance valuable green spaces within the village of Cotherstone and safeguard its attractive rural setting”.**

*As part of the ‘Character Assessment’ review all green spaces have been identified and mapped and ‘high scoring’ views from the toolkit approach have been clearly identified to support a policy statement to protect the rural setting of the village.*



# Objectives ~ Development of Policy Statements

## OBJECTIVE 3 – Design of New Development

**“To carefully manage the design of new housing, building conversions or other development to help maintain and reinforce those elements which make up the essential character and identity of the village and wider Parish”.**

*A detailed review/update exercise has been carried out around the Village Design Statement (2001) to bring it in line with current National Planning Policy Framework requirements and align it as a ‘Good Practice Guide’ to the Neighbourhood Plan. This document forms a key part of a policy statement to support future developments within the village to preserve the village character.*

## OBJECTIVE 4 – Housing

**“To support housing development of an appropriate scale, type and location which contributes to a thriving community, whilst respecting the essential character, rural setting and identity of the village and wider Parish”.**

*A detailed review of all housing development within the Parish over the past 10 years has been undertaken and reviewed against the Durham County Council survey of potential sites (SHLAA - 2013). A detailed Housing Policy document has been developed to support this key objective.*

## OBJECTIVE 5 – Business/Employment

**“To promote a vibrant local economy by supporting home working, self-employment and other rural-based businesses (including tourism) which respect their setting and the nature of neighbouring uses”.**

*A detailed review of types of business/employment within the Parish was undertaken. Policy Statements have been developed to support existing businesses and to improve on sustainable infrastructure requirements.*



All policy documents have been shared with Durham County Council Planning Policy and Heritage Officers during their development and are now subject to a detailed review of content and alignment with the overall Durham County Plan.

*The facilitation group: Richard Hunter, John Birkett, Lynn Metcalfe, Pippa Leech, Philip Leech, Ross Law, Martin Meggs, Simon Crowe, Karen Crowe and Dreda Forster. There is also an ‘Action Team’ of residents who wish to help in other areas such as distribution of newsletters and questionnaires etc.*