



Berwick-upon-Tweed Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Events Launch Project Report **March 2016**



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1. Introduction

1.1 Neighbourhood planning powers were introduced through the Localism Act 2011. They give communities the opportunity to shape and define how their area should grow and change in the future. Neighbourhood planning is a process, which in Northumberland, is led by Town and Parish Councils with input from the local community. Northumberland County Council, as Local Planning Authority for the area, has a duty to support Town and Parish Councils engaged in neighbourhood planning. The outcome of the process is the preparation of locally specific planning policies which must be used to guide decisions on planning applications.

1.2 Neighbourhood plans must be prepared in line with procedures established in national legislation and guidance. They are legal planning policy documents and, for this reason, plans are subject to close scrutiny when they are being prepared and before they come into legal force.

1.3 One of the key principles that underpins neighbourhood planning is the need to engage and consult with the local community and other local, regional and national stakeholders whose activities have an impact on the local area. It is good practice to start the process of plan preparation by agreeing to engage with all stakeholders and organisations at the beginning of the process and to continue to engage with people who live, work or have involvement with the area throughout the whole process.

1.4 The Town Council supports this approach and has started plan preparation in an open and transparent manner by inviting everyone with an interest in the area to make their views known about:

- what matters to them;
- what is good about living and working in Berwick; and
- what needs to be improved.

The information and opinions collected should inform the issues to be covered in a neighbourhood plan.

1.5 As a means of starting the process of collecting information and opinions that would influence the content of a neighbourhood plan for Berwick, the Town Council arranged a series of community engagement drop-in sessions throughout the Parish. These were intended to help explain the purpose and process of neighbourhood planning and to seek information and opinions from the local community. This report provides a summary of the outcomes from those events.

1.6 Each drop-in session sought views from the community using a variety of techniques, each of which looked to determine local opinions about life in Berwick. These techniques included:

- feedback postcards inviting people to identify the 3 things they would change about Berwick-upon-Tweed;
- feedback response forms inviting people to provide comments on any matter that concerns them or matters which they would like to support;
- feedback display boards which allowed people to identify, by using 'Post-it' notes what is good and not so good about life in Berwick;
- Feedback display boards seeking opinions about the topic areas that should be covered in a neighbourhood plan; and
- a mapping exercise which allowed people to highlight specific locations of concern and where opportunities exist for improvements.

1.6 In addition, information about the drop-in sessions was posted on the Town Council's neighbourhood planning website and the opportunity was provided for people to provide comments by email. Responses received through the community engagement drop-in sessions, and the email responses are described and summarised in this report and will be used to help inform the first stages of plan preparation which involves defining a vision and objectives for the Plan. This work can also inform the planning policy areas that may be addressed in the Plan.

2 Background

2.1 The Town Council formally resolved to prepare a neighbourhood plan at its meeting on 20 January 2014. Discussions were subsequently held with neighbouring parishes regarding the extent of the area to be covered by a neighbourhood plan. The intention was to explore the opportunity of working together on a plan that could cover a group of parish areas. It was eventually agreed that a neighbourhood plan should cover only the civil parish of Berwick-upon-Tweed. An application to designate the civil parish as a neighbourhood area was submitted to the County Council on 29 June 2015. The Berwick-upon-Tweed Neighbourhood Area was formally designated on 29 July 2015 following a four week consultation period. The Neighbourhood Area covers the communities of Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth and is shown on the map in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1: Berwick-upon-Tweed Neighbourhood Area

2.2 The Town Council subsequently agreed to establish a Steering Group to oversee the preparation of a neighbourhood plan. The Steering Group was established towards the end of 2015 and comprises 7 Town Councillors and 7 community volunteers who are residents in the Berwick-upon-Tweed Neighbourhood Area. The 7 volunteers were appointed to the Steering Group following a general invitation published by the Town Council for residents interested in supporting preparation of a neighbourhood plan to submit an expression of interest. With the support of the County Council, the Steering Group planned and delivered the community engagement drop-in sessions as a means of launching the Berwick-upon-Tweed Neighbourhood Plan.

3 Community Engagement Activities

3.1 Direct community engagement is an effective means of seeking local evidence and opinions about issues that a neighbourhood plan should cover. The purpose of the community engagement events created to launch the Berwick-upon-Tweed Neighbourhood Plan was to raise awareness of the opportunities presented by neighbourhood planning and to engage as broad a range of people from the local community as possible from the start of the plan making process. Engagement sought to help the Steering Group in defining those issues of greatest importance to the local community in terms of land-use planning matters.

3.2 The resulting feedback will enable the Steering Group to focus on the key issues, described through the opinions and evidence collected through this process, which impact on the quality of life in Berwick-upon-Tweed. This information will help to define a vision and objectives for a neighbourhood plan that can shape the future of development in Berwick-upon-Tweed.

3.3 The Steering Group designed five community ‘drop in’ events which were delivered in locations selected to reflect the Council Ward areas that make up the Berwick-upon-Tweed Neighbourhood Area. The location of the drop-in sessions and the lead Town Councillors involved in those areas is defined in Table 1 below.

Councillors	Date	Venue	Time	Ward
Cllr K Graham, Cllr P Hodgson	3 rd February	Prior Park First School	6.00pm – 7.30pm	Grove/Stadium
Cllr G Hill	9 th February	Tweedmouth Bowling Club	6.00pm – 7.30pm	St Boisil
Cllr C Seymour	12 th February	St Paul's Church, Spittal	6.00pm – 7.30pm	Upper and Lower Spittal
Cllr A Forbes	16 th February	St Mary's School	7.00pm – 8.30pm	Magdalene
Cllr E Goodyer	26 th February	Guildhall	6.00pm – 7.30pm	Castle

Table 1: Timetable and location of community engagement drop-in events

3.4 Prior to the commencement of the five events, an information leaflet was prepared by the Steering Group and distributed to every home and business in the Neighbourhood Area (see Appendix A.1). The purpose of this was to publicise the events and ensure that as many people as possible had the opportunity to attend and actively contribute to the early stages of the plan making process. In addition, the events were publicised in the local press and through the Town Council's website

which also encouraged comments and suggestions from the community to be provided by email or in writing.

3.5 Each community engagement event followed the same format using the same engagement activities to ensure consistency in the opportunities for comments to be made and to allow a consistent approach to be applied in analysing the comments. Engagement activities comprised the following:

- Display Boards summarising the neighbourhood planning process including the steps involved in preparing a neighbourhood plan (see Appendix A.2);
- PowerPoint presentation on a timed loop providing information on neighbourhood planning (see Appendix A.3);
- Display Boards and maps identifying the Berwick-upon-Tweed Neighbourhood Area (see Appendix A.4);
- Community Feedback Board: an exercise allowing people to identify on maps some specific locations where problems exist or where there are opportunities for change (see Appendix A.5);
- Community Feedback Board using 'Post-it' notes to identify what's good and not so good about the environment in Berwick-upon-Tweed (see Appendix A.6);
- Community Feedback Board to identify key themes for the Neighbourhood Plan (see Appendix A.7);
- Feedback Postcards allowing people to identify 3 things they would change about Berwick-upon-Tweed (see Appendix A.8); and
- Feedback Leaflets allowing people to provide positive comments about Berwick-upon-Tweed and to identify any matter about which they have concerns (see Appendix A.9).

3.6 The engagement activities are described in more detail below. A transcript of all comments received is provided at Appendix A.10. A summary of the comments made by geographic area and by topic is provided at Appendix A.11 and Appendix A.12 respectively.

Community Feedback Boards: Identifying good and not so good issues

3.7 This activity involved members of the public identifying those things they consider to be good or not so good features of living and working in Berwick-upon-Tweed. Colour coded Post-it notes were provided on which people were invited to write their comments and attach their Post-it notes to the appropriate colour coded Feedback Board. An example of the outputs from this exercise is shown in Figure 2 below. Red post-it notes helped to identify problems and issues in Berwick-upon-Tweed which could potentially be addressed through the Neighbourhood Plan. Green Post-it notes identified positive features of the town.



Figure 2: Community Feedback Board: good and not so good features

Community Feedback Boards: Key Themes

3.7 This activity involved members of the public identifying the topics they think should be covered by the Neighbourhood Plan. Yellow Post-it notes were provided to complete this exercise. The intention of the exercise was to allow people to give their opinions about the extent of the neighbourhood plan in terms of the subject areas it should address.

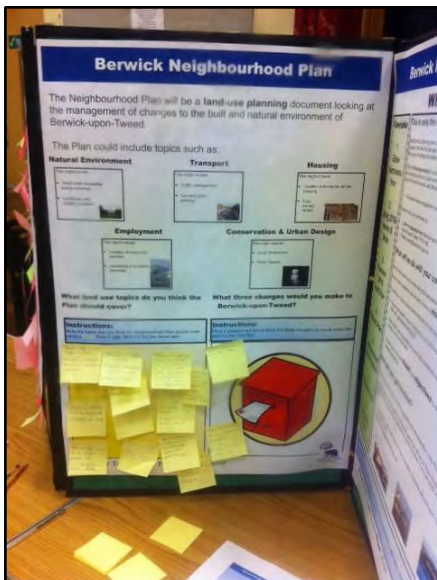


Figure 3: Neighbourhood Plan Key Themes Feedback Board

Community Feedback Board: Mapping exercise

3.8 This activity involved using maps on which people could pinpoint specific areas of Berwick-upon-Tweed which they consider to present either a problem or an opportunity. This involved using numbered red stickers to identify specific problems, and numbered green stickers to identify areas where there were specific opportunities that could be taken forward in a neighbourhood plan. The comments made about each specific red or green numbered sticker were recorded in a log-book with corresponding numbers.

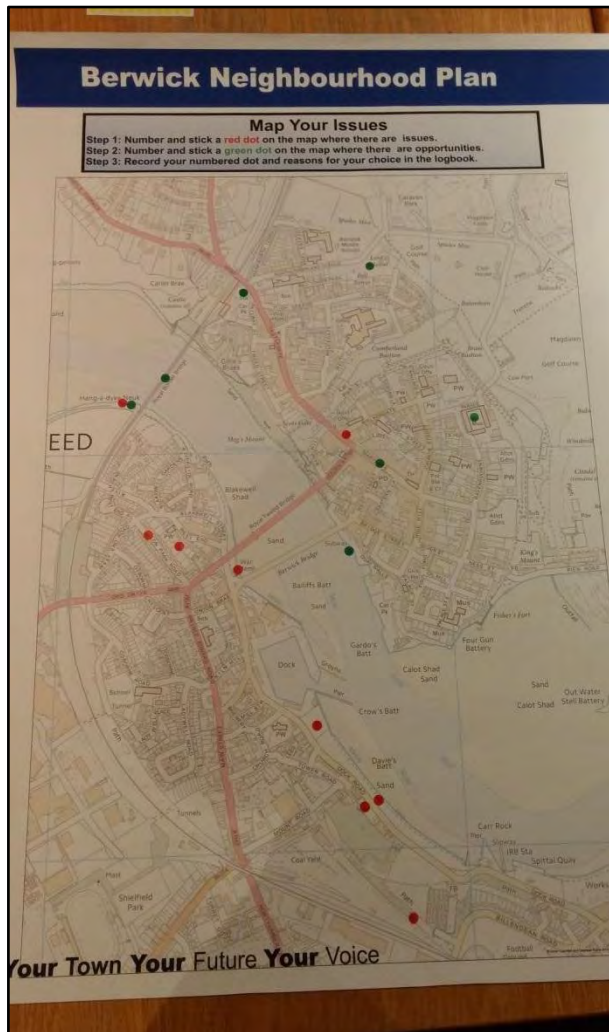


Figure 4: Mapping Community Issues

Feedback Postcards

3.9 Members of the public who attended the consultation events were encouraged to complete feedback postcards which asked respondents what three changes they would like to see in Berwick-upon-Tweed. This activity was carried out to help establish local community aspirations and priorities.

Feedback Leaflet

3.10 Leaflets explaining the purpose of the events were provided at the drop-in events. These included space on which people could write any additional comments. The response form specifically asked respondents what issues they felt most affected their family, their local area and Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Conversation Capture

3.11 Where issues were raised through conversations with members of the public, this was captured by the officers from the County Council's Communities and Infrastructure Team who attended each event to provide support to the Town Council.



Figure 5: Introductory boards and feedback materials at Guildhall, 26th February 2016

Attendance

3.12 The number of attendees was monitored by officers at each consultation event. The resulting number of people attending each consultation is displayed below in Table 2.

Date (2016)	Venue	No. of attendants
3rd February	Prior Park First School	20
9th February	Tweedmouth Bowling Club	35
12th February	St Paul's Church, Spittal	23
16th February	St Mary's School	26
26th February	Guildhall	64

Table 2: Attendance at events

4. Summary of Responses

4.1 Feedback received from all five consultation events and the email responses received have been collated for review by the Town Council. These are presented in the appendices to this report. General topics raised from the consultation and engagement process are summarised below. The main topic areas identified from the responses received to this community engagement activity are divided in to land use planning issues and non- land use planning issues. These are described in Tables 3 and 4 below:

Design	Disabled access
Provision of event space	Housing
Education and training facilities and opportunities	Restaurant/takeaway provision
Environment	Vacant/derelict brownfield sites
Tourism	Use of river as an asset
Sport and recreation	Air quality
Regeneration	Cemeteries
Conservation and historic environment	Renewable energy
Flooding	Community infrastructure
Highways and transport	Healthcare
Employment	

Table 3: Land Use Planning Issues

Short term festivals	Seagulls
Dog fouling	Cost of parking
Age of participants at consultation events	Drug dealers
Litter and rubbish	Visible police presence
Highway improvements outside of plan area	Town Council politics
Speed of vehicles	Actual bus routes
Usage of Jet Skis	Standard of mowing
Walking bus	Politics between public bodies and other organisations
Cost of bus fares	

Table 4: Non-Land Use Planning Issues

5. Conclusions and Next Steps

5.1 The feedback received through the period of community engagement undertaken by Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council has identified a significant number of topic areas that may be relevant to address in a neighbourhood plan. Recurring land use planning issues raised in representations and at the events included:

- Housing (Housing mix, options, and availability)
- Highways and transport (Coach parking, car parking, park and ride, congestion, A1 issues (outside of plan area), condition of pavements, train, coach and bus connections, bridge conditions, accessibility)
- Regeneration (town centre occupancy rates, office locations, Quayside, quality of retail offer, location of community facilities in Town Centre)
- Employment opportunities (job creation, job opportunities, office/employment space, attraction of employers, attraction of higher paid jobs, link between education opportunities and employment)
- Reuse of brownfield/vacant Sites - across the plan area, especially Quayside (both sides of river)
- Provision of event space (opportunities for use of existing locations in the towns for events)
- Tourism (opportunities for Berwick, coach parking, viewpoints, use of historic environment, use of natural environment)
- Conservation and historic environment (preservation and enhancement of built environment)
- Environment (improvement of the quality of the natural environment)
- Design (improvement of built environment, including the design of new buildings, and development projects)
- Community infrastructure (including recreation) (condition of parks, footpaths, public facilities, recreation facilities)

5.2 In addition to the land use planning issues a number of other issues were raised repeatedly in representations and during the consultation events including:

- Dog fouling
- Litter and rubbish
- Seagulls/gulls

5.3 A full summary of the comments on a topic and spatial basis is included as Appendices A.11 and A.12 respectively.

5.4 This feedback will be analysed by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, who will examine the opinions of the public to consider what key issues the Neighbourhood Plan should focus on. This will help in defining a vision, aims and objectives for the Plan which will underpin the creation of the land use planning policies proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan.

5.5 Consultation and engagement on the Plan as it is prepared will be an ongoing feature of this project. The Town Council will continue to engage with everyone who has an interest in the future development and growth of Berwick-upon-Tweed. This will include consultation with residents, businesses, local groups and organisations and statutory bodies all of whom may have advice, opinions and evidence which can support the preparation of a locally relevant and appropriate Neighbourhood Plan.

Appendix A.1 - Consultation Information Leaflet



What is Neighbourhood Planning?

Berwick Town Council is taking the lead in creating a Neighbourhood Plan and will consult with residents and businesses to help determine the future look of Berwick, Spittal & Tweedmouth.

Neighbourhood plans allow local people to shape decisions about how land is used. Where do we need houses, schools, parks and places to work? It is not about money, but if done well our plan will attract investment and make our town a better place to live in. The Neighbourhood Plan policies will be used by Northumberland County Council, together with their Core Strategy, as a basis for deciding planning applications.

We have set-up a Steering Group to prepare the plan, and to manage public consultation. There will be a series of Drop-In events early in 2016 to discuss what is most important to local people.



Berwick-upon-Tweed
Town Council

How does this affect me?

We are seeking input from everyone to identify what the plan needs to consider. The consultation will start with drop-in events, which will be held throughout the Plan Area, covering Berwick, Spittal & Tweedmouth. Comments and suggestions can also be provided through our website.

CONSULT@BERWICK-TC.GOV.UK
WWW.BERWICKPLAN.CO.UK



BERWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

YOUR TOWN – YOUR FUTURE - YOUR VOICE

Appendix A.2 - Display Boards: Neighbourhood Planning

Berwick Neighbourhood Plan

Help Plan the Future of Berwick-upon-Tweed



The Town Council is producing a Neighbourhood Plan and is seeking your views on what the plan should address.

This is your chance to help develop a positive vision and planning policy framework that will help shape our future over the next 10 to 15 years.

Your Town Your Future Your Voice



Berwick Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood Planning

What is it?

New Planning Powers from the 2011 Localism Act.

Allows **local people** to play a much stronger role in shaping the **future** of the areas where they **live** and **work**.

Neighbourhood Plans can create a **vision** for the future of the neighbourhood. They provide **policies** and **proposals** that will shape future development .

How is it done?



Are there restrictions?

Must have regard to national planning policies and guidance.

Must be in general conformity with local strategic planning policies.

Must support sustainable development and can't be used to prevent development.

Must be agreed by a referendum of local people before adoption.

Your Town Your Future Your Voice



Appendix A.3 – Looped PowerPoint: Neighbourhood Planning Process

Berwick Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood Planning Community Engagement Events February 2016

Your Town Your Future Your Voice



Berwick Neighbourhood Plan

What's involved?



Neighbourhood planning gives local people a direct say in the future development of their local area

Your Town Your Future Your Voice



Berwick Neighbourhood Plan

What does this mean for Berwick-upon-Tweed?

Local people are being given the opportunity to create a **land-use plan** to guide and shape development in Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth

We want you to tell us about the:

- **Issues** affecting life in Berwick-upon-Tweed; and
- **Opportunities** for change

Your Town Your Future Your Voice



Berwick Neighbourhood Plan

Are There Any Restrictions?

Must have regard to national planning policies and guidance.

Must be in general conformity with local strategic planning policies.

Must support sustainable development and can't be used to prevent development.

Must be prepared in consultation with the local community.

Must be agreed by a referendum of local people before adoption.

Your Town Your Future Your Voice



Berwick Neighbourhood Plan

Berwick-upon-Tweed Neighbourhood Area



The Neighbourhood Plan area covers the whole of the parish boundary of Berwick-upon-Tweed and includes the 7 ward areas:

- Castle;
- Grove;
- Lower Spittal;
- Magdalene;
- St. Basil's;
- Stadium; and
- Upper Spittal

Your Town Your Future Your Voice



Berwick Neighbourhood Plan

Preparing the Plan

Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council has set up a Project **Steering Group** to lead the plan making process.

The Steering Group will prepare a **Draft Plan** based around the **issues** that **you** identify over the coming weeks and months.

Please take the time to get involved and tell us what matters to **you**

Your Town Your Future Your Voice



Berwick Neighbourhood Plan

What should the Neighbourhood Plan cover? – It's up to you!



Natural Environment?



Housing?



Conservation & Urban Design?



Employment?



Transport?

Your Town Your Future Your Voice



Berwick Neighbourhood Plan

We need your help!

The Town Council wants to hear your views on:

- What's **good** about Berwick-upon-Tweed?
- What needs to **change**?
- What needs to be **protected**?
- What **issues** are important to you and your family?
- **What you would like Berwick-upon-Tweed to look like in 2031?**

Your Town Your Future Your Voice



Berwick Neighbourhood Plan

It is
your Parish
and
your Plan
so we need to know what
YOU think...

Your Town Your Future Your Voice



Berwick Neighbourhood Plan

So What Happens Next...

We will:

- Collect all of the community comments from these events;
- Identify key issues and opportunities based on those comments;
- Prepare a Vision and Objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan; and
- Consult again with the community on the draft Vision and Objectives.

You can:

- Keep up to date on Neighbourhood Plan progress via our website: **Website details:** www.berwickplan.co.uk
- Get in touch and let us know if you'd like to get involved in preparing the Plan:
 - **Contact Details:** Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council,
5 The Chancery, Quayside, TD15 1HE
Tel: 01293 302391
Email: consult@berwick-tc.gov.uk

Your Town Your Future Your Voice



Berwick Neighbourhood Plan

**End of
Presentation**

Your Town Your Future Your Voice



Appendix A.4 – Area and Timeline for Plan Preparation

Berwick Neighbourhood Plan



Timetable

1. Raise Awareness Now
2. Spring 2016 Issues & Aims
3. Summer 2016 Draft Plan
4. Winter 2016 Submit Plan
5. Independent Examination
6. Referendum
7. Adopted Plan

Your Town Your Future Your Voice



Appendix A.5 - Community Feedback Board: Mapping the Issues

Berwick Neighbourhood Plan

Mapping the Issues

We want you to identify your problem areas (red dot) and areas of opportunity (green dot)



Your Town Your Future Your Voice



Appendix A.6 - Community Feedback Board: good and not so good features of life in Berwick-upon-Tweed

Berwick Neighbourhood Plan

What is good about living and working Berwick-upon-Tweed?



What is not so good about living and working in Berwick-upon-Tweed?



Stick your messages to the side which represents your views on Berwick-upon-Tweed:

Green = Good

Red = Not so good

Your Town Your Future Your Voice



Berwick-upon-Tweed
Town Council

Appendix A.7 – Community Feedback Board: Key Themes

Berwick Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan will be a **land-use planning** document looking at the management of changes to the built and natural environment of Berwick-upon-Tweed.

The Plan could include topics such as:

Natural Environment

This might include:

- Small scale renewable energy schemes
- Landscape and wildlife protection



Transport

This might include:

- Traffic management
- Car and cycle parking



Housing

This might include:


- Location and amount of new housing
- Type: owned/rented



Employment

This might include:

- Location of shops and services
- Availability of business premises



Conservation & Urban Design

This might include:

- Local Architecture
- Public Spaces



What land use topics do you think the Plan should cover?

What three changes would you make to Berwick-upon-Tweed?

Instructions:
Write the topics that you think the Neighbourhood Plan should cover using a **Yellow** 'Post it' note. Stick it in the box below here.

?

Instructions:
Fill in a postcard and tell us about the three changes you would make then post it in the 'Post Box'.



Your Town Your Future Your Voice



Appendix A.8 – Community Feedback Postcard: 3 Changes

Berwick Neighbourhood Plan

Community Feedback Card

What three changes would you make to Berwick-upon-Tweed ?.....

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Full Name: _____
Postcode: _____

Please place in our 'Post Box' after completion

Your Town Your Future Your Voice



A.10 Transcript and summary of all comments received from all community engagement events and by email

Engagement Event Location:	Prior Park First School
Date of Event:	3 February 2015, 6pm-7.30pm
Number of people attending:	20

Community Feedback Board: Key Themes (Yellow Post-it exercise)

- Signage to promote and encourage circulation of visitors around the Town's attractions, views etc.
- Using the potential of the quayside as a space for activities and as a valuable visitor asset.
- Developing the Town's tourism potential
- Housing
- Employment
- Urban design

Community Feedback Postcard: Three Changes

- More one bed & studio flat accommodation for young people/couples
- Make use of empty shops in the High Street – either for businesses or housing
- Encourage small businesses
- Housing - more rented houses
- Employment
- More children's play parks
- Better roads (Prior Park very bad)
- Single persons accommodation
- A better high street – shops poor
- More one bed accommodation for young people/and for elderly (i.e. more retirement units)
- More small units for small businesses to develop
- More resources to improve town centre e.g. lower business rates incentives for lower rents, more imaginative development of facilities and potential of town centre.
- Employment – more jobs
- Housing (social, affordable)
- Transport
- Make a modest flat rate charge for all day parking throughout the town

- Provide coach parking facility (and ideally toilets) in part of the former Kwik Save site in the old car park areas adjacent to Coxons Lane
- Develop the quayside area for leisure use and as an attraction or visitor

Community Feedback Board: What's **good about living and working in Berwick-upon-Tweed (Green Post-it exercise)**

- A wider selection of independent shops than many people realise
- Great place to live!
- Very friendly place.
- Our fantastic local food offer which is met well enough which not well enough used by enough local eating places
- The people of Berwick – Friendly and helpful
- Lovely parks and areas for walking
- The Walls
- The Estuary
- The Sea

Community Feedback Board: What's **not so good about living and working in Berwick-upon-Tweed (Red Post-it exercise)**

- Too many charity shops!
- Poor shopping
- Desperate roads
- Improve/repair local roads e.g. Prior Park
- Lack of single bed accommodation
- Condition of roads in Prior Park
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Limited further education provision
- Not enough reasonably rented property
- More/better play facilities for children
- On-going road problems with surface of Etal Road
- Prior Park roads
- More one bed units for young people/elderly
- Lack of parking spaces for visitors and others who would spend money in the town

Comments from Feedback Leaflet response form

- Suitable housing for local people, avoiding the bedroom tax.
- Engagement with local residents
- Enabling the structures for economic investment and attraction of large employers
- Good road services

- A leadership group that doesn't squabble internally
- A small marina on Tweedmouth side of the Tweed also for cars to park along the length of Dock Road for picnics etc. or just to look at the Tweed.
- Land that has been claimed by an individual on Etal Road – fenced off and trees planted around it westside of Etal Road past Roberts Lodge
- Springhill loaning all the rubbish under hedgerows – School children to visit town hall and gaol to know more about Town to instil pride in Town.
- It is quite possible that Scotland will become Independent during the next 20 years. What would be the physical impact on Berwick? New border crossings? New opportunities and new threats. How does the town relate to Scotland now and in the future?

Community Feedback Board: Mapping the Issues (Transcripts from mapping green and red dot exercise)

Red Dots

- 1) Free Parking is a problem e.g. Castle Gate Car Park full by 11am (used by staff working in town) therefore reintroduce limited costs for parking.
- 2) Shops and businesses closing down, less choice, not as vibrant.
- 3) Long term status of Car Park uncertain – Castle Gate. Should remain as car park in the long term (contrary view expressed by English Heritage, they don't want cars parked next to walls).

Green Dots

- 1) Quayside and riverside: Supporting property development for leisure uses
- 2) New play park – for local kids
- 3) New marina – new development tourism
- 4) Kwik Save Building – appropriate for coach parking Coxwains Lane (Part of site) (not necessarily whole of site).
- 5) Well signed viewpoints – Megs Mount and Ramparts for Tweed Valley
- 6) Well signed viewpoints – Northumberland Coast and Holy Island
- 7) Well signed viewpoints – Mouth of the Tweed
- 8) Well signed viewpoints – Bridgend viewpoints
- 9) Well signed viewpoints – Russian gun viewpoint

Conversation Capture: comments made in discussions at events

- Parking – concerns raised including free parking, parking for visitors/tourists, unsafe parking, parking for office workers during the day
- Coach park – views were expressed regarding the perceived need for coach parking facilities in Berwick
- Signage of viewpoints around the town
- Heritage assets – it was considered that Berwick's heritage assets should be protected

- Retail – there was concern at the retail offer available in Berwick
- Employment opportunities – it was considered that Berwick needs to increase employment opportunities and attract long term investment
- Youth opportunities – views were expressed regarding the need to raise the aspirations of local young people
- Town Council politics – there is a perception that political tension within the Town Council is impacting negatively on the town and that the neighbourhood plan is a positive opportunity to bring people together

Engagement Event Location:	Tweedmouth Bowling Club
Date of Event:	9 February 2015, 6pm-7.30pm
Number of people attending:	35

Community Feedback Board: Key Themes (Yellow Post-it exercise)

- Use cameras to catch people who do not clean up after their dogs on a “roving basis”.
- The Town Walls must never again be hidden behind inappropriate buildings. Does the Council not appreciate the value of this fantastic historical asset to the town and to tourism?
- Maintenance/improvement of the Riverside Walk (Tweedmouth) & New Road (Berwick).
- Why not use the Barracks as a college for restoration work – Stone Masonry etc. Good communications and rooms for students.
- Transport – more designated cycleways
- Car parking in Town Centre, Berwick needs a multi-storey car park.
- Parking for residents – proper enforcement by traffic wardens.
- Involve local children in schools with local representatives to develop their ideas and the need to vote.
- Need proper Bus Station – later bus and train times.
- Multi-storey car park
- Council working for town & not in house fighting.
- Play parks back in use please.
- Better facilities at hospital so don't have to make long journeys for a few minutes.
- Better policing in public parks.
- Too many drug dealers lurking around.
- Beautiful walks spoil by needles and bottles.
- Protection of the few green spaces – The Town Green, increasingly threatened by council and developers who CANNOT SEE that an Act of Parliament protects it.
- The Goody Patch, neglected filthy paths, litter etc, yet has potential to be a safe and enjoyable area for families.

Community Feedback Postcard: Three Changes

- Remove Parking on Marygate – Park and Ride?
- More businesses etc to increase employment, no more housing needed until jobs are available.

- Better transport links, keep hoppa bus/park and ride solution.
- Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal – consider as one.
- Only one! Leave Berwick alone or change it back to how it used to be.
- Pie-in-the-sky thinking, but wouldn't it be great to have an Ice Rink – Kelso Ice Rink in the Borders is always busy – use kwik save site.
- Very important to protect our natural environment along the river bank etc.
- Public Transport Sunday buses poor to NCL, no late trains from the cities local Sunday buses stop about 5.30!!
- Transport – particularly to Hospitals
- More employment initiatives badly needed, maybe cooperatives, friendly for small businesses.
- Tidy up litter, dog dirt – costs money I know, but improves presentation of town as remove garish signage from shop fronts the Marygate and B & M bargains etc.
- Nothing much for youth/teenagers
- Filthy messy area in town centre/lack of flower beds by Maltings
- Lack of big impact Tourist Attractions
- Abolish Unitary Authority and go back to Berwick Borough Council
- Better hospital facility – Wansbeck and Cramlington too far to travel
- Make High Street one way and include proper parking
- Provide coach parking for tourists
- Later Trains from to cities (especially weekends).
- More money on infrastructure i.e. roads/pavements
- Funding for employment – e.g. co-ops
- Cosmetic improvement e.g. to Marygate
- Reducing political apathy – improving participation
- Clean it up fast – dog muck!!! Prosecute.
- Make more for tourists
- CCTV renewed.

Community Feedback Board: What's good about living and working in Berwick-upon-Tweed (Green Post-it exercise)

- Low crime rate – feel safe
- Sense of community
- Good rail links
- Access to river/coast/countryside
- Good (& expanding) cultural mix
- Geographic position between 2 cities
- History
- Affordability of houses
- Having a railway station
- Good Bus Services

- Visible police presence
- Very beautiful and historic town
- We are fortunate to have an open green area and woodland like the Goody Patchy. It needs to be protected and improved as a family restoration area
- Berwick is a lovely historic town with beautiful beaches, walks castles etc located around it, but what has Berwick got to offer tourists when they actually come into the Town itself, not a lot anymore.
- Good access to road and rail
- Beautiful area
- Access to beaches, riverside, entertainment, the Maltings, station cafes/restaurants public transport, historical features e.g. Walls.

Community Feedback Board: What's **not so good about living and working in Berwick-upon-Tweed (Red Post-it exercise)**

- Town council squabbling
- Petty politics
- No late buses
- No late trains from Edinburgh/Newcastle
- Parking – Problems in Castlegate Car Park
- Too many vehicles in main street
- Loud, ugly notices above shops in Marygate
- Litter, dog dirt.
- Tidy up the town centre – get rid of unwanted cars, make the experience a pleasure and not one to avoid.
- The town is dirty and does not invite tourism
- Lots of infighting in Town Council,
- Hospital not on horizon,
- Cheap shops killing the independent shops.
- Marygate parking is at present a disaster, it invites careless behaviour, sooner or later someone will be hurt, meanwhile everyone is furious.
- Too many cheap shops e.g. B&M Bargains do not enhance the town for tourists.
- Cemeteries not under control of Berwick Borough Council.
- High Street ruined by changes made. New Bridge should be changed back to 3 lanes.
- Very far away from main hospitals
- People over border get better service from Scottish Borders Council than we get from Northumberland County Council.

Comments from Feedback Leaflet response form

- How many of the issues are also opportunities?

- We are concerned, that after two years of trading, we still have people telling us that they did not know of our shop this is probably because many shoppers don't make their way to Castlegate. We do advertise with a board at the end of the street, but most people only go out of the car park and into the High Street.

Community Feedback Board: Mapping the Issues (Transcripts from mapping green and red dot exercise)

Green Dots

- 1) The Barracks and the Harbour
- 2) Safe place to live and retire
- 3) Fantastic transport links – need to exploit, later train
- 4) Opportunity for a market – various
- 5) Greens area – opportunity for a Lumiere event
- 6) Lumiere event
- 7) Riverside path, amazing asset and stunning on Tweedmouth side

Red Dots

- 1) Flood risk/defence in poor repair – significant issue (6th December 2014) – flooding.
- 2) Town Green – under threat from development x2
- 3) Coating works – taking of additional land that isn't theirs
- 4) Northumbrian Water Limited – Building in severe need of repair, buildings nearby are also in poor state of repair.
- 5) Ginnel (Alleyway/Chare) to the rear of union park lots of rubbish, more litter bins required, particularly at the end of the ginnel.
- 6) Riverside path in poor condition, need tidying up.
- 7) Tourist information centre – needs to be in vision.
- 8) Union Park Road – People parking on drop crossing – additional yellow lines on junction.
- 9) St Helen's terrace – suffers from sand blowing off the beach causing problems for residents.
- 10) Coal yard SHLAA site – NCC woodland need for one egress/access option.

Conversation Capture: comments made in discussions at events

- Location of Tourist Information Centre
- Integration of new housing and architectural landscape
- Parking – need for a park and ride facility to reduce parking issues in the town
- Involvement of young people in the Neighbourhood Plan process
- Concern regarding flooding around the banks of the Tweed.

Engagement Event Location:	St Paul's Church Hall
Date of Event:	12 February 2015, 6pm-7.30pm
Number of people attending:	23

Community Feedback Board: Key Themes (Yellow Post-it exercise)

- Pavements in Spittal not suitable for disabled buggies/pushchairs pavements in general a disgrace, edging around rose gardens in Main Street need to be renewed.
- Tackling litter issues
- Need a direct bus to Wansbeck Hospital
- Solution to parking – make the workers use a park and ride (use hopper bus) on a trading estate, leaving the parking for residents and visitors to park.
- Parking in Berwick impossible!
- Coach parking facilities
- Park and Ride
- Lots of money has been wasted e.g. the seat and pavement at the Parade. The money issue needs to be sorted out.
- A person to prosecute people who let their dogs foul on beach and prom
- Avoid wind turbines
- Indoor Market Hall required
- Coach parking – old kwik save site & toilets be ideal.
- Walking routes – wildlife notices
- Make a plan of common land so it does not get built on i.e. land at Spittal opposite Car Wash & Old Salmon Fishery.
- How to get more re-usable energy schemes going.
- Tourist info needs to be where people are – not off the beaten track.
- Attract economic activity which pays more and demands higher skills – up the Further and Higher Education offer.
- Coach parking facilities, tourist information needs to be central
- Library at the Swan Centre – why??
- Have promenade railing repaired – a disgrace.
- A dog warden on patrol more.
- Restore and take care of our Historic Buildings and Town Walls, Ramparts.

Community Feedback Postcard: Three Changes

- Develop the river area for tourists and walkers further
- Encourage small businesses with lower costs and free means of marketing to the local and wider area.
- Clean up Spittal to a high standard
- Better Hospital
- Improve Marygate to make it more attractive
- We need more tourists in Berwick
- Less charity shops
- Better parking
- Improve the Further and Higher Education offer
- Attract economic activity which demands higher skills and pays more
- Aspire rather than race to the bottom
- Uncover cobbles through Marygate and Hyde Hill, like has been done in Kelso, would slow traffic down, save on tarmac costs and would look stunning.
- Proper Hospital
- Improve Marygate (Shops)
- Encourage Tourism
- Maintain and enhance historic character
- Ensure continuous access to water margins
- Maintain and protect great open spaces
- More facilities for disabled people
- A bus station
- Better hospital facilities
- New hospital built – so services can be returned like old days x5 operating days and A&E unit, so don't have to travel to see a consultant.
- A university so our future children don't have to travel
- A high street where all the shops are occupied.
- Park and ride for cars
- Special coach park for visitors
- Make town a real tourist centre
- Build a marina, possibly around the location of the Old Lifeboat Ramp.
- Develop Palace Green Buildings as workshop units for artists.
- More houses – Fewer Holiday Caravans
- Stop modern building that are not in character with the town
- Stop litter louts by having cameras and wardens allowed to fine huge penalties.
- A&E Department needed and have a better ambulance cover.
- Coach park – (Kwik save site & toilets, information).
- Reasonable rents for shops on Marygate
- Improve parking at the station
- Turn the Kwik-Save site into a Coach Park and toilet facilities
- Spruce up Marygate – offer empty shops at lower rents

Community Feedback Board: What's **good about living and working in Berwick-upon-Tweed (Green Post-it exercise)**

- Beauty – History, Walled Town very special.
- Its history – architecture and wildlife needs promoting.
- One of the most beautiful towns in the Country – underestimated!!
- Beautiful place – a tourist heaven (or should be).
- Everything here – sea, sand, history etc.
- Lovely town, coast, countryside, Good communications.
- Lovely town to live in – Walls etc.
- Beautiful town, beaches, walls and lovely people
- The air is good and lots of beautiful Buildings and Birds and Swans
- Excellent environment AONB very important market town feel.
- Great town – history, river, coast, good rail communications etc. Decent bus services within town. All make for good living.
- Tweed & Sea collision, coastline.
- The historic walls and the size of the town.
- Fantastic town – needs selling to the visitors
- Swans & wildlife
- Good beach and prom
- Good bus service
- Some good local businesses.

Community Feedback Board: What's **not so good about living and working in Berwick-upon-Tweed (Red Post-it exercise)**

- The Beach is hard to find for visitors
- Dog muck!!!
- Kwik Save site needs developing into coach park, tourist info and toilet facilities
- Negativity – over quick to resort to anger and blame low wage, low skill economy.
- Too many supermarkets – a run down high street.
- Hospital too far away from Berwick
- Shops closing down and no new ones coming in. Shortage of footfall in High Street.
- Large number of empty shops – halve the rents and get people in.
- Hospital services too far away – not always ambulance cover – need A&E here.
- Beautiful area, but a lot needs to be done with empty shop problem. Reduce rents. Have more shops on a larger scale like Serendipity. – perhaps some 'artisans' could show how they make their wares.
- Litter left by visitors and residents everywhere! Many bins are too small.
- Unsympathetic modern buildings that don't fit in.

- Berwick parking
- Main hospital services too far away no transport available.
- Public toilet – provision is poor for a tourist town. The traffic situation in the town centre is bad.
- Coach park on kwik-save site, be much the best place. Could be toilets and information there – important.
- Parking! Parking! Parking!
- Signs needed to stop people parking at top end of South Greenwich Road to Stop people parking to close to the prom.
- Parking at station difficult.
- Tourist Information needs to stay where it is.
- Rents on main shopping street (Marygate) far too expensive.
- High Street is poor.
- The on street parking should be abolished to make the town centre much more appealing. Parking is not necessary there. How far is it to walk from the Hide Hill, Chapel Street, Church Road?
- Litter, Dog Dirt
- Marygate – should be enhanced – get rid of parking except for disabled. Get building owners to tidy up their properties.
- Parking should not be allowed on Main Street.
- Poor employment for the young people.
- Main Shopping centre too busy with traffic
- Need better Hospital facilities!
- Have a bus station
- More businesses in empty shops.
- Dog muck on Spittal Promenade
- New business growth
- New Hospital and better facilities (A&E) – Bring back what we had – operations 5 days a week.
- Better parking at Railway Station use High Street.
- Pavements in Spittal in bad state of repair.
- New bins needed in street
- Seafield Park in poor state, including benches.
- Parking at top end of South Greenwich Road needs some sort of sign to stop cars going too close to railings.
- Too many charity shops in Berwick.
- The Old Bridge should be closed to all vehicles. The pavements are very narrow and kerbs are low – vehicles travel too fast.
- Better Hospital Facilities.
- Coach parking should be in Walkergate – near shops etc. Berwick badly needs tourists.

Comments from Feedback Leaflet response form

- Can we have a car-share scheme.
- I am very concerned about the condition of the traffic calmers or humps in the region off Spittal Hall Road, Adams Drive, Sunnyside Crescent, Farne Road, and Billendean Road. They are rapidly disintegrating and being constantly dished up with dollops of Tar Macadam, Passing over them is akin to being on the high sea's, plus damage to the underside of the car, and of course the expense and inconvenience having to get repairs done to our cars. Are these humps necessary for repairs – do not last very long.
- The main problem in Berwick is parking. We desperately need to sort this problem. Are the car parks full by 9.30am. Park & Ride is the only way to overcome this as we have no more space. We must make space for visiting coaches in the town centre. We have an ideal tourist town and do not take advantage of all it's ideal situation – Gateway to the borders; close to Lindisfarne and Holy Island; easy access up to Edinburgh.
- Better and more accessible Car Parking at Railway Station.
- Make Castle Drive (Residential Area) an access only road for residents only to stop station car parking people parking in places where an accident is going to happen.
- Make Walkergate (Kwik Save) a Tourist Park for buses and build toilets on same site.
- Start charging a modest sum for Car Parking to make money for County – Free Parking is bedlam in the summer.

Community Feedback Board: Mapping the Issues (Transcripts from mapping green and red dot exercise)

Green Dots

- 1) North Park and Ride
- 2) South Park and Ride
- 3) Chimney – great opportunity
- 4) Empty factories – attract light industry and use for tradesman/apprenticeship type training
- 5) New Offices – replace council offices
- 6) Park and ride for commuters – frees up town car parks – central car park for visitors
- 7) 30mph speed limit require on Sunnyside, all the way to the bypass (for pedestrian safety and for encouraging cycling).
- 8) Could be a focal point for whole community – used for community events
- 9) _
- 10) Good indoor market required
- 11) Love the Spittal Point “Full Stop” chimney.

- 12) More trees in Upper Spittal.
- 13) Would love to see heritage colours on Buildings in Upper Spittal rather than beige houses.
- 14) More seats looking out to Beautiful View – Upper Spittal looking out to sea.

Red Dots

- 1) Old brickworks need developing derelict for a long time – Affordable Housing a possibility.
- 2) Car parking Spittal point – litter and beach. Billendean, Goody Patchy takes a long time for the Council to respond to clearing it. TC employing own staff.
- 3) Modern building proposal – threat to heritage, vistas, should be where sympathetic, indication of issues in wider town.
- 4) Kwik-save site – coach parking, shouldn't be offices.
- 5) Railway maintenance by beach is poor, rotting, should be better as a great beach.
- 6) Promenade – dog muck needs removing, sign to prevent parking on promenade, restricts mobility, railings need improving.
- 7) Seafield Park – poor state of maintenance
- 8) Weeds on pavements – needs addressing, brings area down, sport and play, good work done by gardening club.
- 9) Rose garden, soil is poor, not properly maintained, requires proper maintenance, needs soil moving, pavements need improvements.
- 10) Land being encroached by private common land owners.
- 11) Litter outside academy, dog muck, area is a bit run down. Needs public effort and awareness.
- 12) Litter likely to need addressing still – visibility poor.
- 13) Viewing point needs restoration – Halidon Hill, major tourist draw.
- 14) Old Bridge – pedestrianize 20mph.
- 15) Poor toilets.

Conversation Capture: comments made in discussions at events

- Litter
- Community Assets (protection for Spittal Chimney Stack)
- Nature Park for Spittal Point
- Nature walk along the Tweed
- Parking – town centre and station parking issues
- Too many offices in Town Centre
- Coach Parking required in town to provide for visitors
- Retail (Impact of out of town Supermarkets on the town centre)
- Condition of Street Furniture
- Investment in Spittal
- Development of Spittal Point

- Park and ride facilities should be considered, particularly for office workers during the day as this puts a strain on parking availability
- Lack of vision

Engagement Event Location:	St Mary's School
Date of Event:	16 February 2015, 6pm-7.30pm
Number of people attending:	26

Community Feedback Board: Key Themes (Yellow Post-it exercise)

- Look after our heritage building – they are a sight for sore eyes
- Litter on the A1 and roads around Berwick is appalling!
- 'Waste' land eyesores – St Aiden's, Land next to 'The Queens Head'
- Bring in new businesses to town not new offices.
- Please dual the A1 to Berwick as soon as possible: Trade, safety etc.
- Develop the Port and Marina
- New Hospital urgency in building
- Empty shops need filling – range of facilities
- Road conditions & paths in need of Ethrusion [*sic: word not clear*] very uneven.
- Hospital
- Better range of businesses
- Better education
- Better roads

Community Feedback Postcard: Three Changes

- Get rid of the disastrous parking scheme on Marygate.
- Try to get landlords to reduce rates/rent on buildings to avoid more empty shops in the town centre
- Stop the planned building on the old Kwik-Save site and use it as a coach park.
- Tidy up my neighbourhood, rubbish over the garden and streets.
- Apprenticeship and training for youngsters
- Community use within schools at holiday time. Cookery classes, gardening, crafts – Pass knowledge on.
- Make the town centre safer – especially on Marygate – it is dangerous. Parking as it is, does not work.
- Get on and build a new hospital – ideally a bigger one out of town!
- Sort out the empty, ugly, derelict buildings which make the town's image a 'mixed one'
- Hospital/Medical Facilities
- Education and Employment
- Better road conditions

Community Feedback Board: What's **good about living and working in Berwick-upon-Tweed (Green Post-it exercise)**

- Location – good mixture of Coast, Country and City nearby.
- Friendly people
- Berwick is a friendly town. Pity about shop closing. It is turning into a ghost town.
- Restoration & improvement & promotion of Coronation & Castle Vale Parks.
- Good to see some redevelopment of buildings lots of potential if continued
- A town with character
- The Lowry numbered guides to places of interest and his paintings.
- Walking around the Walls and the Beach and talking to people on the Pier and in the Town.
- The fresh air and nature trails and beautiful heritage buildings.

Community Feedback Board: What's **not so good about living and working in Berwick-upon-Tweed (Red Post-it exercise)**

- Constant changes of plans and proposals by planners and the County Council.
- The car parking on Marygate needs to be stopped it is dangerous to pedestrians and motorists and impedes traffic flow.
- The redevelopment of the hospital is behind schedule – a larger newer hospital should have been built on the edge of the town.
- The Kwik-Save site should be developed on the advice of local people and not used for offices.
- Too many foreign/forgotten [*writing not clear*] shops – let's have some nice place to enjoy.
- Too many charity shops and coffee shops. Not enough high profile businesses.

Comments from Feedback Leaflet response form

- Pride in our area – poor weed and grass control means that rubbish and dog dirt and cars end up in the grass. The underlined are mowed to pieces grass is left lying. Area will only show improvement if the tenants and homeowners around make an effort as well as any council etc.
- Cars – Garages should be free if householder needs one, especially in Newfields (they must have carried their cost). Those people who have driveways should use them. Please no parking on the pavement as there are shoppers with wheelies and disabled with chairs who need access. Also parking and turning on the grass (suggest a car park on green area on North

side of 86 Sea View as the ground there is impacted with housing rubbish and the grass doesn't grow).

- Four housing is responsible for any fences including old boundary fence between Newfields and Highfields where was originally a footpath leading over the Musg [*sic: word not clear*] otherwise St Aidan's northside gardens will be exposed.

Community Feedback Board: Mapping the Issues (Transcripts from mapping green and red dot exercise)

Green Dot

- 1) Skate Park (& Wheeled Park) for Berwick – Edinburgh & Newcastle are nearest locations
- 2) New park (muga) multi purpose – football pitches etc. Aimed at older children age 10+
- 3) Community Centre – Opportunity cone there is condemned.
- 4) Outdoor seating – public open space
- 5) Restoration of lily pond – Castle Vale, community work - improved environment & leisure facilities opportunity (positive).
- 6) Opportunities for exercise – safe walking route, Pier and Town Walls
- 7) Opportunities for exercise – safe walking route, Pier and Town Walls
- 8) _
- 9) Opportunity for bowling and cinema at Tesco
- 10) Top class restaurant

Red Dot

- 1) Lack of facilities/recreation for elderly e.g. seated area.
- 2) No dog bins on New Road – dog bags litter side of road.
- 3) Westfield – bad condition
- 4) Path overgrown – not accessible – who's responsibility to clear it?
- 5) Difficult to cross road
- 6) _
- 7) Newfields – lack of outdoor seating – more park benches – who's responsibility to clear it?
- 8) Old cinema – removed bushes – needs clearing bricks/rubble etc....
- 9) _
- 10) Newfields – lack of outdoor seating – more park benches – who's responsibility to clear it.
- 11) St Aidan's House – Disused building sold off by NCC – derelict, eyesore, Pigeons.
- 12) Parking on Marygate – two lanes of traffic either way – disabled parking good but cars get blocked in.

13) Don't pedestrianize or Berwick Bridge – will result in lack of trade for shops.

Conversation Capture: comments made in discussions at events

- Park Benches – provision of benches could be improved
- Impact of potential pedestrianisation of Berwick Bridge
- Parking issues, particularly on Marygate, resulting in safety concerns
- Public Rights of Way
- Pedestrian Crossings
- Dog Bins
- Town Council Politics
- There is a need to improve Employment Opportunities in the town
- Lack of fast food restaurants in the town.
- Condition of derelict sites within the town – issues raised over land ownership as residents are unsure of who is responsible for maintenance

Engagement Event Location:	Guildhall
Date of Event:	26 February 2015, 6pm-7.30pm
Number of people attending:	64

Community Feedback Board: Key Themes (Yellow Post-it exercise)

- Better contemporary architecture, not as on the Ravensdowne Site
- Car free zone on Marygate please
- Natural Environment very important as it's the hear, core and lungs of Berwick
- Provision of further education for young people
- Cultural life, heritage and festivals
- It seems surprising that as much of Berwick's Economy is based on tourism that at present a topic group for tourism isn't listed.
- Increase tourism funding – it is the lifeline of Town
- Leisure facilities, which are at present inadequate and badly managed (e.g. Swan Centre)
- I think the Tourism Information Office should remain where it is.
- Signage on the A1 to Berwick Town Centre. People should be encouraged to take the 1st turning (Scremerston) and enter via Tweedmouth.
- Conservation
- Restoration
- Innovation
- Good things about Berwick – Maltings, Culture, Green Spaces, Railway, Green Shop, Bridge Street
- Conservation and Urban Design – Important to the overall vision of Berwick
- Safer cycling to promote more cycling
- Culture Focus – Big crowd puller

Community Feedback Postcard: Three Changes

- Take back the Barracks and develop it as a tourism 'hub' and centre for events and heritage
- Promote the town walls and Berwick is rich history more via themed packages – i.e. activity holidays linking with accommodation providers
- To pedestrianize the old Bridge is madness – who thinks of these stupid ideas. What about the traffic flow impact on the rest of the town.

- Need further education here as young trainees and apprentices have to train far away places like Newcastle.
- Far too much litter on the A1, gives a very bad impression.
- Marygate too messy.
- Make town more pedestrian and cycle friendly (and more accessible to disabled).
- Provide better leisure facilities
- Move coach parking to Tweedmouth (near old bridge).
- Regeneration of town centre to support retail and help occupation of empty shops
- Remove and replace traffic to town centre
- Provide a greater range of housing options – type, affordable, range.
- Install a new Town Council more concerned with moving Berwick forward than bickering between itself.
- Demand better road links – A1 north of Alnwick is a disgrace in 2016 and a negative Re: inward investment.
- Establish vision for future RE: physical and economic regeneration and follow through with joined up decisions and activity.
- Be brave with the Town Centre and pedestrianize it – with limited access for deliveries only and emergencies services.
- Immediately change Marygate Parking.
- Make builders open West Street to Pedestrians
- Organisations should TALK to each other.
- Improve shops in Main Street as regards frontages and type and more independent and quality e.g. Bridge Street.
- Pedestrianize central area and prioritize for walking and cycling.
- Build a small indoor market (Kwik-Save site) and landscape around so that market is weatherproof and building could also be used for small functions.
- Attract the money i.e. education/yachting – A small marina, Berwick side of the River would attract a lot of North Sea Yachtsmen.
- Make effort to attract better business to Berwick.
- Make more effort to encourage pollinators e.g. “pollinator pathways” as in Oslo.
- Provide a college/evening classes towards higher education.
- Later train services from Edinburgh to Berwick.
- The state of the pavements and Roads in and around Berwick are dangerous
- The Leisure facilities are inadequate for town centre of this size
- The Barracks would make a very good Tourist Hub.
- More emphasis on good design
- Traffic out of the town centre (cars and coaches)
- Protection of heritage assets.
- Cull the gulls
- Install pedestrian crossings in Marygate.
- Provide space in Further Education.

- Get rid of the Gulls
- Pedestrianize the High Street
- Clean up the litter
- Pedestrianisation of Marygate
- Walking bus initiative
- Proper Coach facilities
- Promotion of our obvious history
- Less infighting within Council
- Problems attracting new shops for financial rewards
- Car-free zone on Marygate
- Increase public pride in Town by 1) lifting litter, 2) planting more flowers, 3) adding colour to Town Centre
- Embrace our history and cherish it.
- All listed buildings unoccupied should be thoroughly restored
- Encourage tourist friendly shops
- Dual carriageway A1 north of Alnwick.
- Encourage more tourism
- Better coach parking
- Jobs within Berwick, including allowing offices at Kwik Save clean up the town centre.
- We must attract more small businesses and develop tourism for the latter we must improve the appearance of the town e.g. Removal of eyesores like the derelict British School, clean up the street and private property that can be seen e.g. rear of Card Factory, much bigger fines for littering but this would need wardens.
- Reduce gull numbers.
- Make main street only for pedestrians
- Encourage the better quality shops from Bridge Street and Church Street and West Street to relocate to the Main Street.
- The main thoroughfare is the first place visitors see. It does not leave a good impression.
- Ask an Edinburgh person what they think of Berwick and its is the main street – A BIT OF A DUMP.
- Berwick is an absolutely lovely place to live as we have learned this past year. I shop in Bridge Street, Church Street (esp No6) and West Street (choc shop). How many visitors know of their existence? The start at the top of Hyde Hill and go no further!
- Cheaper bus fares – less cars
- Marygate – proper parking.
- Walk to school “crocodiles”
- No parking on Marygate
- No parking on West Street
- Additional Stalls on Market

- Locally elected councillors will fight for better services for the town, being able to contact Borough Offices direct.
- Someone to talk over the job of cleaning the streets etc of our lovely town (is filthy).
- Repairing footpaths and streets before someone has an accident and sues the Council.
- More opportunity for joining up the good energy in the town – like this meeting! More chances to show off the great local craft industries and celebrate to a national audience.
- More development schemes for young people in the town – creative, skills based etc.
- This could be enabled by the food/book/film festivals – a great set of resources.
- More collaboration between cultural initiative in the town.
- Support from the Town Council.
- Increased support for the FES
- Increased collaboration.

Community Feedback Board: What's good about living and working in Berwick-upon-Tweed (Green Post-it exercise)

- Beaches not used by many locals – Why?
- Forget conservation areas and listed buildings and let people improve their properties
- The new look Town Council is doing just great!!
- Berwick has a wealth of history which lacks a clear promotional plan. More tourists in means more money in which means more development.
- Good community spirit
- Excellent Coastline
- Steeped in History
- Wonderful sea air
- Easy access to Edinburgh, Alnwick, Newcastle etc.
- Good communications
- Main line station
- Long distance buses
- All main services and facilities
- Countryside access
- The Maltings
- Good restaurants and cafes
- Care of heritage buildings – active enforcement
- A better deal for young people
- Education for all – reintroduction of all the courses that used to be in Berwick

- Beautiful scenery, great amenities – really delighted, there is a veg box scheme and friendly people who have offered us a warm welcome!
- Berwick has great road rail links – but they DESPERATELY need updating.
- Well preserved attractive historic town that has huge tourist potential.
- Good quality independent shops in fact excellent shops e.g. Bridge Street shops, West Street, Church Street.
- Always something happening – the food fair, parades, pipe band etc. Such an atmosphere!
- Good beaches, but not advertised
- Nice setting by river/sea, so why not have boats between Berwick and Lindisfarne
- Amazing scenery and potentially a very beautiful town. A1 and main-line railway lots of really interesting people and always something going on.
- Healthy place to live with access to outdoor activities so easy.
- Good transport (not car) with Edinburgh, Newcastle, York and London.
- Generally a very safe place – little or no crime.
- Berwick has an incredibly rich cultural life. Its people and its heritage arts amenities and food and drink. Let's support the people doing this work, the many volunteers involved. There is a real wealth there that if well supported can benefit everyone.
- Friendly place
- The number of activities organised by volunteers, the national and international links, the history – listed buildings, the walls, mainline station – must not lose the frequency of services
- Wonderful history and architecture
- The interest shown by many new people into the town, most volunteer and help the town.
- The Maltings is brilliant, so is the University of the third age.
- We should use the river ferries (like in the last decade), as a town – very attractive.
- Most of the buildings are attractive – the countryside around is stunningly beautiful with a rich variety of wildlife – undervalued by the Council.
- The people are very friendly and helpful.
- Bring back the farmers market
- Pedestrianize High Street
- A most attractive town with many amazing buildings.
- A healthy environment.
- Friendly people
- Entertainment at the Maltings
- Excellent train service
- Bus service to Alnwick etc quite good.

Community Feedback Board: What's **not so good** about living and working in Berwick-upon-Tweed (**Red** Post-it exercise)

- Parking – signs for direction on entering town.
- Needs a good clean up
- We must have parking for people, so they have time to park and look around, long times and toilets.
- Berwick is nice town but let down by Main Street (Make it traffic free and improve shop fronts and offer)
- Litter management – very poor
- Weekend night time – anti social behaviour not conducive to attracting visitor
- The Barracks museum being closed on a weekend when most tourist here, especially in low season.
- Need to do something about the Main Street
- Poor quality shopping
- Cars travelling through the centre of the town
- Cars parked as though they are in the middle of the street
- The main street is what visitors first notice – not a good impression of Berwick.
- Keep the tourist office on Marygate
- When will something be done regarding the Old School on Palace Green that backs onto the Walls. Visitors frequently ask this – as they walk round the walls. A key attraction is spoiled!!
- Lack of advertising about Berwick being a seaside destination
- Berwick badly needs more cycle lanes. Cycling here is very dangerous and it's a good thing to encourage people to cycle rather than drive
- Tourism officer needed quickly
- Coach parking should be in Tweedmouth (near Old Bridge), not in the town centre. This would avoid increasing congestion and enhance road safety.
- Gulls – problem
- No Coach Park
- Berwick needs more traffic calming facilities, such as traffic lights near the Railway Station.
- Some people's lack of pride and care for our beautiful town
- Total lack of vision as to Berwick's economic future
- Berwick has great tourism assets which appear to be total non-promoted
- The obvious disharmony within the council leads to the man in the street neither trusting or respecting the individual's/council or their judgements this **MUST BE ADDRESSED!**
- The gulls nesting in town centre area
- The sad High Street (parking, empty shops)
- Need to do something about Berwick's main street. It's usually the first comment by visitors. Visitors generally see the main street and many do not venture to Bridge Street especially

- Quayside which has tremendous tourism potential remains a derelict site
- Marygate – shops poor, some dreadful frontages and upper storeys e.g. Burtons. Old Co-op building is an eye sore. Needs to be more like Bridge Street. Get rid of parking on Marygate
- Have a pedestrian crossing, don't have all day parking for all the Parade Car Park – visitors need to come. Clean gutters, remove weeds.
- The 'Quayside' seems to be a reissued opportunity. Also the town serves short of 'Communal' space – i.e. halls or meeting rooms.
- Promote the use of the Quayside – convert the Chandlery to a pub restaurant, pontoon for visiting yachts and pleasure cruises
- The poor publicity that the town council engenders
- The indiscriminate and poor parking on Marygate
- The lack of a major employer
- Gulls and Gull droppings
- Leaking gutters in shopping areas
- Litter all over the High Street
- The lack of pedestrian crossings on Marygate
- Poor PR and promotion of Berwick and Tweed Valley, lack of cross border cooperation.
- Moving the tourist information into the library building is a bad idea. Tourists will not find it easy to find. Will prove hard for the local businesses.
- Kill seagulls
- Political infighting between Town Council and NCC – encourage conversion of shop uppers of residential.
- Main street is awful and very off putting to visitors.
- Litter
- Derelict buildings
- Very under promoted to tourists/visitors
- The Seagulls, the mess they cause and they make, and the hazard to children.
- Lack of college for further education, and grants for travelling. Lack of sense of value of natural environment
- Town Council wastes time arguing
- Litter!!
- Lack of investment in the town, which couldn't they dual the A1 all the way to Berwick
- Parking on Main Road – High Street, should not be allowed – cars pull out without due attention to main through traffic.
- Berwick outdoor market should be better – use Kwik Save site for small indoor market/function suite
- Berwick is a Market Town in obvious decline
- Tourists will not come unless old buildings are conserved
- The Town Council not working well together, should all be independents – party politics spoiling things!

- High street run down and tired

Comments from Feedback Leaflet response form

- How can you address Land Use Planning before you know what your key economic strategy (tourism/retail/manufacturing/service sector) is?
- Town needs to be cleaned up – cull seagulls
- Political infighting between Town Council and NCC is counterproductive
- Tweed valley needs promoting as a place to live/visit with Berwick at its heart – nationwide.
- More use of river to provide facilities for pleasure craft
- Open top summer bus service between St Abbs and Holy Island including Bolt
- Use kwik-save site for Coach Parking.
- Utilise shop upper parts for residential
- I don't think the town is making the best use of its geographical location and rich history. We need to attract more businesses, hotels restaurants, quality shops if we are to have successful tourist industry.
- Parking is a key issue. The town is very congested and coach parking will make this worse unless moved to Tweedmouth. We should encourage people to cycling and walk, not drive if it can be avoided. Maybe use shuttle buses to get people into the centre?
- Need more people in the town to spend money would lead to more shops being viable and therefore a better high street. Need to attract more tourists. Encourage coaches. Day trips and longer term. Need a good coach park with café and toilets. Why not on the Kwik-Save site? Once it is built on there will not be such a good opportunity to build near the centre.
- Force owners of run down buildings to tidy them up Council are one of the worst offenders. Note state of Community Centre. My friends visiting call it a “very run down town”
- Local councillors making decisions not Alnwick or Morpeth who have no interest in our problems they don't live here. A Hospital that is no more than a First Aid station resulting in a 65 mile journey to a main hospital, the cost of ambulances and cars used to ferry patients must be huge. We should have resident doctors and surgeons to take care of our elderly and ill patients. We have a complete walled town this envy of many cities with a long and varied history the gem of Northumberland the town is dying let's get it back on the map.
- Bus shelter Newfields moved across the road
- Pensioners allowed to use bus passes anytime of the day.
- Seats around Newfields
- No offices built on Kwik-Save Newfields play park equipment for older children.
- Community Centre either pull down or repair in Newfields.

- Training centre for school leavers in Ramparts, to give a trade for future jobs (plumbing, joinery, painting, decorating, plastering etc.)
- No seats in or around Newfields would like some equipment for older children in Newfields Park
- Moving bus stop at Newfields to other side of the road.
- Community Centre in Newfields needs repaired or pulled down as not safe
- Pensioners being able to use bus passes at any time of day
- Sort paths and lighting in Newfields as are a danger to walkers
- I think that every effort should be made to extend the outreach activities of Northumbria College with suitable facilities made available – these facilities could also be used by community, groups etc.
- New employment opportunities desperately to be found – Berwick needs to be marketed far and wide!
- The gulls badly need to be culled because of the town is badly blighted by them in the summer.
- Should some of the shops be turned into residences?
- Could the owners of the empty properties be pressurised to improve their appearance.
- Berwick has really thriving festivals and cultural life. The council's autumn festivals is a fantastic opportunity for support. As director of Berwick Film and Media Arts Festivals have recently initiated a regular meeting and forum for discussion with the Beverage and Food Festival, Heritage Days and Literature Festival. The festivals should so much of what is best about Berwick, but can also become really meaningful resources all year round for young people, older residents and people that may be economically or socially disadvantaged. They can provide jobs and already do a brilliant job, attracting thousands of people that wouldn't otherwise know of the town. Let's invoke an even more lively festival present in the town together.
- Berwick is becoming a retirement home for the elderly evidence – evident by the growth of a café society. This results in more leisure facilities being required and a conservation attitude towards the historic heritage of the town and attracting visitors to Berwick.
- Young people need to have jobs here too – perhaps combine the two by making Berwick a learning centre for conservation by the physical conservation of the town preserving its historic archives for study a beacon of best practice for care in the community.
- Traffic matters need to be addressed – making Berwick car free perhaps with a park and ride system established.
- Would like more of our built heritage taken care of and proper materials and scope for specifications used for our buildings.

Community Feedback Board: Mapping the Issues (Transcripts from mapping green and red dot exercise)

Green Dot

- 1) Kwik-Save site – Theatre, Opportunity for Multi Storey, Car Park, Bus Station
- 2) Windfarm Opportunity
- 3) Pedestrianise Marygate
- 4) Improve Dock Area – regenerate (both sides of the river and use river as an asset.
- 5) Berwick Shellfish Company – Redevelop Site
- 6) Picture House – Multi Storey Car Park Opportunity
- 7) Ramparts Opportunity for Modern Offices
- 8) –
- 9) Barracks Opportunity – Heritage Hub, Cultural Hub and Film Centre
- 10) Opportunity – Bar, food and drink place.
- 11) Opportunity – Something unobtrusive, not housing, something for everyone to use
- 12) Opportunity for boat trips up to Paxton House
- 13) National cycle route 1 needs improving – surface, more of a role as a cycle hub (Berwick)
- 14) Village green – retain it.
- 15) Castle Vale – Parks good.
- 16) Park – good opportunity
- 17) Park – good opportunity
- 18) Rose Gardens – Good
- 19) Opportunity for Star Gazing, keep as dark skies for tourists and local people
- 20) New Road, riverside walk
- 21) Riverside Walk
- 22) Park
- 23) Fishing Rod – Brown Trout

Red Dot

- 1) Spittal – Sandstell Point needs regenerating
- 2) Ideal for Housing – Needs regenerating
- 3) Parking – Whole Town Issue
- 4) Kwik Save – Shouldn't be offices
- 5) Ramparts – underused, should be more used
- 6) Negotiating Hyde Hill with cars – Traffic Issue
- 7) New Premier Inn – nowhere to park cars
- 8) Derelict site – full of rats and pigeons
- 9) Nowhere to buy food since co-op has gone
- 10) No traffic calming – needs something to slow traffic down

- 11) Air Quality Management Area needs to be designated for the centre of Berwick
- 12) Rubbish – Blackburn and Price walled area – actual rubbish being tipped there.
- 13) Passageway – something needs to be done
- 14) Traffic flow – people doing u-turns
- 15) Parking issue
- 16) Empty Shops – Need to fill shops, fundamental changes, needed to encourage people to fill them
- 17) Station Car Park
- 18) Cobbles need relaying
- 19) Tipping Issue – land used to burn rubbish
- 20) People parking on the green from the shellfish factory

Conversation Capture: comments made in discussions at events

- Pedestrianisation
- Exclusion of Ord Civil Parish from Neighbourhood Plan area
- Traffic management in the Town Centre needs to be improved
- Berwick should make the most of its heritage and tourism offer
- Lack of Investment in employment opportunities in the town
- Parking issues in the town, including the lack of coach parking for visitors

Summary of comments received by email

- Traffic congestion in the town centre (4 comments)
- The need to reduce reliance on the car, and promote walking and cycling (3 comments)
- Town centre parking (On street parking is problematic, lengths of stays, lack of car parking, new locations etc.) (10 comments)
- The need for the Town Centre to be pedestrianised to avoid conflict with cars (2 comments)
- The need to control shop deliveries in the interest of highway safety and to avoid congestion. Deliveries should be at the beginning and end of the day (1 comment)
- The need the for a Bus/Coach Station (5 comments)
- Safety at pedestrian crossings including concerns about traffic speed (4 comments)
- State of repair and quality of surfaces of highways, public rights of way and cycle infrastructure (5 comments)
- The need for maintenance and repairs at Spittal promenade and chimney (2 comments)
- Wildlife trail opportunities (2 comments)
- The need for additional housing (2 comments)
- The need for walking buses (1 comment)
- The need to dual the A1 (2 comments)
- Noise from the A1 (1 comment)
- The need to improve accessibility for disabled people (2 comments)
- Local politics and its negative impact on the town (1 comment)
- The need for economic investment in the town as a whole and particularly in the town centre (2 comments)
- The need for improved further and higher education, training and employment opportunities (6 comments)
- The need to protect local health services and reduce need to travel for Ashington and Cramlington for healthcare services (4 comments)
- The need for young people to be involved in the neighbourhood plan process (1 comment)
- The need for town centre improvements (4 comments)
- Reduce the number of empty shops (4 comments)
- Untidy streets (4 comments)
- The need to make use of existing buildings in and around the town centre (2 comments)
- The need to improve townscape and to conserve, the heritage and historic environment in Berwick (2 comments)

- Signage for and condition of community infrastructure is poor and needs to be improved (4 comments)
- Explore the opportunity for a retirement village in the neighbourhood plan area (1 comment)
- Poor quality of the local environment, particularly green spaces (5 comments)
- The Tourist Information Centre is no longer in an easily accessible location (1 comment)
- The need to attract tourists to Berwick (6 comments)
- Flooding in the estuary (1 comment)
- Conservation, extension and improvement to green spaces (3 comments)
- Litter problems in the neighbourhood plan area (8 comments)
Dog fouling in the plan area (3 comments).

A.11 Comments summary by area (Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth)

Comments which have referred to explicit locations have been summarised and broken down into three spatial locations within the Neighbourhood Area (Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal).

Berwick

- Within the town centre there is considered to be an empty shops issue, in addition to this, it is considered that the retail offer needs to be improved as there is limited choice, not as vibrant as it once was and there are too many charity shops. It is considered that more needs to be done to stop shops and businesses closing down. It is also considered there is a need to advertise the independent shops which are there.
- Comments were also received indicating that an implementation of modest parking charges for all day parking throughout the town would be appropriate as free parking is currently a problem as Car Parks are filling up with all day users, leaving little space for people wishing to use the town centre for shopping trips.
- It was also suggested the provision of a Multi-storey car park would help alleviate parking issues in the town centre.
- Castle Gate car park was explicitly mentioned - the request was that this should remain as car park in the long term, although it is understood that the contrary view is expressed by English Heritage, as they don't want cars parked next to the Town Walls.
- Provision of a coach parking facility (including public toilets) is required, the former Kwik Save is often suggested.
- Improvement of Pedestrian Crossings and Highway Issues are often cited in reference to the Town Centre as being an issue.
- The development of the quayside area for leisure use, property development and as an attraction or visitor is often suggested as a way to regenerate the town.
- The Walls, the Estuary, and the Sea have also been suggested as key parts of the town's draw to visitors and residents alike.
- It has suggested that improved provision of well signed viewpoints around Berwick area and improvement of paths and walkways would be of benefit to the town.
- Integration of new buildings and the Town Walls need to be considered carefully.
- The Barracks is seen as an area of opportunity - College for restoration work, Heritage Hub, Cultural Hub and Film Centre, and event space.
- It is considered that a bus station is needed and that later bus and train times are required.

- Protection of the few green spaces.
- Marygate is considered to need improvement, with the removal or alteration of parking on street required, there is considered to be a safety issue around highway traffic, including loading and unloading times, cosmetic improvement of street is also required, with the uncovering of cobbles suggested.
- A Park and Ride and ride was also suggested for the town, to help relieve town centre congestion and parking problems.
- It was also considered that Berwick's historical and natural environment should also be protected and was a great opportunity for tourism development in the town.
- The opportunity for a marina was also considered a suitable way to help improve the tourist offer.
- Town centre highway improvements required, often in relation to issues around Marygate and the Quayside.
- Potential to use 'The Greens' area – opportunity for a Lumiere event was also suggested.
- Opportunities to improve the Riverside path on both sides of the river was also considered to be required,
- Location of the Tourist Information Centre was raised by a number of respondents.
- Some also considered there was a requirement for an indoor market.
- The Palace Green Buildings were considered to be suitable as workshop units for artists
- Public toilet provision is considered to be poor for a tourist town.
- The parking at railway station is considered poor and improvement is required.
- Parks are considered to require improvement and restoration, with opportunities to view 'dark skies' in some areas of Berwick.
- Bridges - Improvements required (there appears to be a mix of views as to what are the suitable courses of action for the future treatment of the bridges e.g. some considered that the old bridge needed to remain open to vehicles and others considered it should remain open for vehicles).
- Comments were received indicating that new offices should be accommodated in existing office locations e.g. Former Council Offices, and a number of consultees considered that new offices are not required on the former Kwik-Save site.
- Impact of modern building proposals was considered to be a threat to heritage and vistas, and this should be located where sympathetic.
- Brownfield/Vacant sites within Berwick should be redeveloped
- Indications that new offices are not required, but new businesses are.
- A Skate Park (& Wheeled Park), MUGA and Football Pitches considered to be required for Berwick
- A recommendation was made that a top class restaurant was required for the town.

- It was also considered that a greater provision of dog waste bins was required
- The need for an improvement in the design and architectural standards in the town was also required.
- The Maltings, Culture, Green Spaces, Railway, Green Shop, Bridge Street, University of the Third Age were often mentioned as good things about Berwick.
- Attracting more jobs to town centre was considered as important
- Improvements to the existing market were deemed to be required by some respondents.
- The main line train station is cited as a great benefit to the town
- The use of river ferries would be good
- Litter and tipping in Town needs clearing up
- Some respondents considered there was an opportunity for a windfarm on the outskirts of Berwick.
- The Ramparts Business Park was considered a suitable locations for Modern Offices.
- It was considered that National cycle route 1 needs improving (both the surface of the track itself and that Berwick could have a greater role as a cycle hub.
- Air quality management issues were also raised in Berwick and it was suggested that there was a need for an AQMA (Air Quality Management Area) in the Town due to the traffic across the town.
- It was also considered that there was an opportunity for event spaces within the town e.g. marquee concerts on the Greens in Summer.
- Some respondents also considered there was a need needs to ensure the protection of playing fields.
- A respondent also considered that the provision of a 5* hotel would encourage visitors with money to come to Berwick.

Spittal

- It was considered that there were accessibility issues with pavements in Spittal and these were not suitable for disabled buggies/pushchairs pavements.
- A respondent considered that a plan of common land is required to ensure that it does not get built on i.e. land at Spittal opposite Car Wash & Old Salmon Fishery.
- It was considered by a number of respondents that the Promenade Railings required repairs and maintenance.
- Some respondents considered that litter and rubbish requires clearing up around Spittal.
- It was considered by some that a marina is required and that Spittal is a suitable location, possibly around the location of the Old Lifeboat Ramp.
- Parking at top end of South Greenwich Road needs some sort of sign to stop cars going too close to railings.

- Condition of traffic calming measures in Spittal needs to be looked at, as this is considered to be in a poor state of repair.
- Some respondents considered that the empty factories, industrial sites in Spittal need redeveloping/reoccupying
- It appears that the Spittal Point “Full Stop” chimney is popular with the community.
- A respondent considered that more trees in Upper Spittal have been requested.
- It was considered by some that buildings should be painted heritage colours in Upper Spittal rather than beige houses.
- Improvements to the promenade and street furniture e.g. Seats, Pavements and Railings was also considered to be suitable.
- The Goody Patchy requires tidying up as it takes a long time for the Council to respond to clearing it.
- Modern building proposals are considered to be a threat to heritage, vistas, should be where sympathetic, indication of issues in wider town.
- Parks require improvement and maintenance e.g. Rose garden, soil is poor, not properly maintained, requires proper maintenance, needs soil moving, pavements need improvements, Seafield Park is also considered to be in a poor condition.
- Regeneration of the site at Sandstell Point is required, site is considered ideal for Housing.
- St Helen’s terrace – suffers from sand blowing off the beach causing problems for residents.

Tweedmouth

- The condition of roads was mentioned by a number of respondents and that these need improving e.g. Prior Park, Etal Road.
- It is considered that there should be an opportunity for cars to park along the length of Dock Road for picnics etc. or just to look at the Tweed.
- Litter, rubbish tipping and dog muck is considered an issue - Springhill loaning is a known problem area.
- With regards to the Quayside and riverside, these were largely considered to be locations which were areas of opportunity and there was support for property development for leisure uses and a small marina on Tweedmouth side of the Tweed.
- The Harbour is also considered an opportunity, particularly the use of river ferries, there are also opportunity for boat trips up to Paxton House, and to Lindisfarne.
- New play parks are required for local kids
- It was also considered that the Goody Patchy, was neglected, litter etc, and that this has potential to be a safe and enjoyable area for families.

- A number of respondents raised issues with the Bridges and that New Bridge should be changed back to 3 lanes, old bridge should be pedestrianised and limit to 20mph.
- Riverside path is considered an amazing asset and stunning on Tweedmouth side, however it is considered to be in a poor condition and needs tidying up.
- Flood risk and flood defences considered to be in poor state of repair – significant issue (6th December 2014).
- It was also considered by some that the Town Green was under threat from development and that this asset needed to be protected.
- A number of respondents considered that a number of Industrial sites required regeneration e.g. Coating works, Berwick Shellfish Company, Northumbrian Water Limited
- The condition of Ginnels were raised, particularly those to the rear of Union Park Road - presence of rubbish, and that the more litter bins required.
- It was also considered that the Library should be located at the Swan Centre
- Some respondents also considered that a Southern Park and Ride should be located near to Tweedmouth.
- It was also suggested that the area near Tesco was suitable location for a bowling centre and cinema.
- A respondent considered that the leisure facilities at the Swan Centre were considered to be inadequate and badly managed.
- Tweedmouth was considered by some to be a suitable location for Coach parking, near to the old bridge.
- Parking on the green from the shellfish factory was also raised as a concern
- Highway Issues were also raised with regards to double yellow lines on the roads and junctions in the Western area of the town require repainting, to discourage the routine practice of illegal / unsafe parking close to junctions.
- Parking was also considered to be a problem in Tweedmouth as it was considered that people are choosing to park on street rather than utilise car parks.
- In addition to the above, the Howick and Falodden terrace area of Tweedmouth is in desperate need of more parking spaces and also a little play park as there is nothing for the kids to do.
- The vacant/brownfield site at the coal yard is considered difficult to access due to the woodland present near/at the proposed access egress to the site.

A.12 Comments Summary by Topic

Berwick Neighbourhood Plan - Comments by Topic

Comments which have been submitted to the engagement exercise have been summarised into key themes under a number of topics

Design

- The Quayside and Riverside are seen as providing an opportunity to be developed and attract people to the area, particularly if new development is designed in the an appropriate way.
- Concerns were raised as to how new and modern development integrates with existing buildings and the consequential effect on the architectural landscape of the town, particularly the historic environment e.g. Town Walls and vistas. Several examples were cited where new development does not fit with the surrounding character. Comments submitted indicated that this needed clear planning guidelines;
- Cosmetic improvement to area of the town is required e.g. Marygate
- It has also been suggested that the cobbles through Marygate and Hyde Hill are uncovered,
- Conservation and Urban Design was considered important to the overall vision of Berwick.
- Comments received also stated that heritage colours on buildings in Upper Spittal looking out to sea would improve their appearance.
- Comments have also been submitted indicating that a better standard of contemporary architecture could be employed.

Provision of Event Space

- Some respondents commented that event space could be provided within the town, this would have potential to provide locations for Marquee concerts on the Greens in Summer or markets or other events. The Barracks courtyard, the Quayside and 'The Greens' have also been suggested as a suitable location for such events. A suggestion was also made that there could be an opportunity for a lumiere event in Berwick.

Education and Training Facilities and Opportunities

- Comments suggested that there should be scope for improving the education offer in Berwick, with suggestions ranging from evening classes to Further & Higher Education opportunities (including requests for a university campus). This would enable young people to stay in Berwick long term.

- It was also suggested that the Barracks could be used as a college hub for restoration courses and training.

Environment

- Suggestions have also been put forward for proposals for a Wildlife Trail around Berwick and the river/estuary.
- The estuary and the sea were seen as key assets of the town, as is access to the river, coast and countryside.
- A number of comments were submitted to protect the green spaces within the town, it was considered particularly important to ensure these are protected from future development.
- A number of comments received considered that flood risk was an issue and that defences are in poor repair.

Employment

- A wide range of comments were received commenting that job creation is important in Berwick and that local jobs need to be protected, and new job opportunities and business attracted to Berwick, and that initiatives could be used to do this. A number of respondents indicated that it was important to attract higher paid jobs to Berwick.
- In addition to the above a number of respondents also commented that small businesses need to be encourage, with small units provided for smaller businesses.
- A number of respondents also indicated there was a need for more offices in the town, and other comments indicating that existing and former council offices could be utilised.
- The link between employment and further and higher education was recognised by some respondents.

Tourism

- The location of the Tourist Information Centre was raised as problematic with many indicating that this needed to be located in a more obvious position within the town.
- A number of comments were received indicating that Berwick upon Tweed is a is underutilised for Tourism and has a lot of potential. The town's heritage was considered a major draw for this and had potential to make the town more affluent.
- The Maltings, Film festival, art exhibitions, book festival etc. were considered to be good for tourism in the town.
- Many respondents considered that support the for the tourism industry in the town was required, particularly in the need for a coach station, better signage within the town for viewpoints, trails and heritage features.

- A Marina was also cited as a potential opportunity for tourism development.
- A lack of big tourist attractions was considered by some to be an issue in Berwick.
- A comment was also received indicating that a 5* hotel would attract visitors to the town.

Sport, Parks and Recreation

- A number of respondents indicated that playing fields required protection, with parks requiring protection too. Comments were also submitted indicating that more children's play parks are required, improved policing is required in parks and that better leisure facilities are required in the town.
- The paths along the Tweed, coast and promenade were cited as key areas used for recreation though these required improvement/maintenance.
- Comments were received stating that improved provision for cycling is required in Berwick, and that Berwick should seek to utilise its position on the national cycle network more.
- The beach and promenade were cited as areas which can be used for many forms of sport and recreation including cyclists, dog walkers and those who enjoy water sports and flying kites.

Regeneration

- There was a range of comments regarding regeneration, particularly with regard to the Town Centre, and Marygate itself. Issues raised were the number of unoccupied businesses and shops, and that this was an issue which needs addressing. It was also suggested that more independent shops needed to be attracted rather than multinationals, and that shops should be incentivised to open through changes to business rates.
- The quayside was seen as an opportunity for regeneration, property development and a potential attraction for visitors and tourism development.
- A comment was also received indicating that a 5* hotel would attract visitors to the town.
- A comment was received indicating that the old bridge was an opportunity for regeneration with a suggestion was put forward for seats and plants on it to make a feature of the bridge.
- It was also considered that more could be made of the market with more stalls and encouragement for the market to offer local food, vegetable and drink, with restrictions on some of the stalls selling low quality goods. More control of the style of stall was required.
- Ramparts Business Park was considered a suitable location for a Coach Park, and have a drop-off facility in the town centre,
- The Barracks was considered to be an area of opportunity, to make more use of this important site.
- Development of brownfield sites within the town was encouraged in order to improve the image of the town and protect the natural environment.

- Comments were received indicating that new council offices were not needed and that the empty shops should be used as offices before new offices are built
- It was considered that more needs to be done to enable economic investment and attract large employers
- Kwik Save site was cited as a site in need of regeneration and that there appeared to be support for coach parking.

Conservation and Historic Environment

- Berwick's history and historic buildings were cited as good things about Berwick and in need of protection and restoration.
- Spittal chimney was considered as an asset, however this is in need of repair.

Flooding

- Flooding and flood risk has been cited as an issue in Berwick and Tweedmouth in particular around the river area, and that new housing should not be supported in areas susceptible to flooding.

Highways and Transport

- The bridges were cited as areas of concern - particularly the Old Bridge where a range of treatments were suggested ranging from leaving it the way it is to pedestrianising it and some other measures in between.
- Comments were also received regarding the New Bridge with some respondents requesting the restoration the three lanes
- A Bus Station was also required by some respondents, along with a coach park - the Kwik Save site was frequently suggested as an appropriate location.
- Parking was also cited to be a problem across the town, ranging from issues with cars parking on pavements, unclear lines and car parking charges (or absence of) and car park capacity, with some respondents considering there was a need for a multi-storey car park, and a need for improved parking opportunities near to the Railway Station, and parking on Marygate has been cited as a particular issue. Some respondents also indicated that park and ride schemes would be suitable in the town to reduce parking problems and congestion.
- The dualling of the A1 was also considered by some respondents to be a priority
- Speed of traffic was also cited in some comments.
- Public transport to hospital links was cited as being in need of improvement, due to the current lengths of journeys required to access this.
- The condition of road surfaces and pavements was cited as a problem in areas of the town.

- Provision of cycling infrastructure was cited as being in need of improvement across the town.
- Berwick's main line rail station was considered to be good for the town, providing good links, however there was a feeling that later bus and train access to the nearest cities (Newcastle and Edinburgh) was in need of improvement.

Healthcare

- Access to health care was considered to be an issue with a number of respondents indicating they considered that better health care facilities e.g. Hospital should be located in the town, due to the travel involved to access these facilities e.g. Travel to Wansbeck (Ashington), Northumbria (Cramlington) or Newcastle for hospital services.
- Public transport access to Hospitals in the region was considered to be poor e.g. Wansbeck and Northumbria hospitals not easily accessed from Berwick.
- Ambulance cover in Berwick was considered to be poor.

Disabled Access

- Comments were raised regarding a range of access issues across the town including the Beach access, condition of pavements, location of disabled bays, lack of dropped kerbs.

Housing

- A number of comments were received with regards to housing, including that vacant/derelict brownfield sites should be used in preference to greenfield sites, new housing should not be near to the A1 due to noise issues, housing should not be located in areas of flood risk (if housing is an area of flood risk ground floors should be used for storage of cars etc), unused upper floors of shops should be used as flats, a need for more smaller units was identified by some e.g. 1 to 2 bedroom units for young people and elderly, a need for more rented units was also identified, more social and affordable housing and more housing for local people was also required, avoiding the bedroom tax, however some comments were also received regarding commenting that no more housing should be needed until new jobs are attracted to Berwick.

Community Infrastructure

- A number of comments were received regarding the need for additional public toilet facilities in the town.
- Coach Park and Bus Station were requested by a number of respondents, as was a park and ride.

- Comments were also received commenting that there was nothing much for youth/teenagers.
- Comments were also received querying why cemeteries were not under town council control
- A respondent queried why was the Library at the Swan Centre
- A number of comments were also received commenting that schools should be available for Community use during holiday time.

Dog Fouling

- A number of comments were received regarding dog fouling in the towns, with a number of solutions suggested for enforcement and tackling this issue.

Age of Participants at Consultation Events

- A comment was raised regarding the age profile a one of the events and that more could be done to engage with other groups.

Litter and Rubbish

- A wide range of comments were received regarding litter, rubbish and tipping in the town, this was considered to be a topic which required tackling.

Dualling of the A1

- Dualling of the A1 should also be a priority by a number of the respondents (outside of plan area).

Speed of vehicles

- A number of comments were received commenting on the speeding of vehicles in the town.

Usage of Jet Skis

- Comments were received regarding the use of jet skis in the estuary due to their potential to cause danger to wildlife particularly swans, and bathers, and canoeists. It was also considered these are very noisy, spoil the quiet atmosphere, many are irresponsible.

Walking Bus

- The suggestion of a walking bus programme has also been suggested for the town to enable children to get to school safely.

Seagulls/Gulls

- Seagulls/Gulls were raised as an issue by many respondents. Comments generally centred on that they are considered nuisance, causing mess around the town.

Drugs

- Comments were also received commenting that there were drug dealers present in the town and that walks around the town are ruined by the presence of needles and bottles.

Visible police presence

- Some comments were received indicating that there was a police presence in the area and that they should issue on the spot fines for failing to comply properly e.g. litter.

Town Council politics

- A number of comments have been submitted regarding the Town Council politics, these comments indicated that there are some negative and acrimonious political relationships in the town.

Politics between public bodies and other organisations

- A number of comments have also been submitted regarding the relationship between, Berwick, NCC and Arch.

Light pollution

- Comments were also made around the potential to reduce light pollution at nights, to enable views of 'dark skies'.