



HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL

I GIVE NOTICE that a meeting of the Hexham Town Council Planning & Infrastructure Committee will be held on Wednesday 10 November 2021 at 5.30pm when the following items will be discussed:

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To receive minutes of the Planning and Infrastructure Committee meeting held 6 October 2021, enclosed.
3. Matters arising.
4. Declarations of interest (see enclosed).
5. To consider burial fees for 2022/23.
6. To consider the 2022/23 Committee budget (see enclosed).
7. To consider a request to add a bin at the new QEHS pedestrian access site.
8. To consider a request from Cityscape to bring back into use the map machines in Hexham.
9. To consider safe walking routes to the Hexham Middle School and Queen Elizabeth High School (see attached).
10. To consider the possibility of extra allotments at Wydon Park.
11. To consider temporary uses of the old Hexham Middle School site.
12. To consider updates to the Sustainability Action Plan (if any).
13. To consider correspondence received (if any).
14. To comment on Planning Applications received (see enclosed).
15. To agree a date and time for the next meeting.
16. Any urgent matters at the Chairman of the meeting's discretion. (*Matters to be raised under this item should be written out (if possible) and handed to the Chairman of the meeting or the Town Clerk before the meeting begins.*)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jane Kevan'.

Jane Kevan
Town Clerk
4 November 2021

Hexham Town Council
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St Andrew's Cemetery
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Hagenda 1121 PlanningInfrastructureCommittee

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 2021 (5.30-6.45pm)**

1661.	PRESENT: Councillors Ord, Baty, Domingue, Grennan, Hartland, O'Farrell and Smith. Also present were Andy Lees and James Swabey from Hexham Space for Nature and one member of the public.
1662.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors Bell and Kennedy.
1663.	MINUTES of the Committee meeting held 20 September, having been circulated, were AGREED.
1664.	<p>MATTERS ARISING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ALLOTMENT GUIDANCE (minute 1648a and action log refers). It was noted that Councillor Baty has had feedback from the Quatre Bras Allotment Association and will incorporate this into the guidance and then send it to Councillor Ord for consideration. b. RAILWAY STATION (minute 1648b and action log refers). It was noted that the availability of the owners of the Old Goods Shed (Arch Company) is pending. c. CEMETERY LODGE (minute 1648c and action log refers). It was noted that sourcing quotes is in progress. d. SOLAR PANELS (minute 1648d and action log refers). It was noted that a quote for the installation of an electric vehicle charging point in the shed at the Cemetery had been circulated to all Committee members. It was also noted that the County Council is looking into potentially doing a bulk install and operate charging points for a number of communities. It was AGREED to circulate any information when received. e. WYDON PARK PLAY AREA (minute 1648e and action log refers). It was AGREED that Councillor Ord would contact Priestlands Residents Group for an update on this. f. SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN (minute 1648f and action log refers). It was noted that Councillors Domingue and Hartland circulated a draft Sustainability Action Plan to all Committee members and that it will be discussed under agenda item 8. g. FRIENDS OF THE SELE (minute 1648g and action log refers). It was noted that Councillor Baty is researching this and has the contact details for a similar group in Prudhoe who she will contact for advice. h. HEXHAM SPACE FOR NATURE (minute 1648i and action log refers). It was noted that Andy Lees and James Swabey from Hexham Space for Nature are at the meeting to discuss HS4N's work and the roadmap for wildlife, climate and people at St Andrew's Cemetery. i. HISTORICAL INFORMATION SIGNAGE (minute 1648j and action log refers). It was noted that an example plaque has been produced which includes a QR code and will be viewed at the

October Full Council meeting.

- j. SOLAR PANELS (minute 1648k and action log refers). It was noted that representatives from the Abbey are planning a meeting to discuss this, and Councillor Baty will provide an update when available.
- k. BONFIRES AT QUATRE BRAS ALLOTMENTS (minute 1648l and action log refers). It was noted that this is pending.
- l. GLYPHOSATE AT THE CEMETERY (minute 1648m and action log refers). It was noted that the remaining glyphosate has been collected and NCC has been contacted regarding its safe disposal. It was AGREED to recontact NCC for an update on this.
- m. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (minute 1648n and action log refers). It was noted that Councillor Grennan has submitted an initial funding bid for Grow Hexham and will contact the funders for an update on its progress.
- n. SUBARU TRIANGLE WILDFLOWER AREA (minute 1648o). It was noted that this is pending and that Councillor Ord will discuss this with Councillor O'Farrell.
- o. WILDFLOWER BORDER SIGNAGE (minute 1648p). It was noted that it would be more appropriate to pursue this project in Spring 2022 and it was AGREED to postpone this until then.
- p. WYDON PARK ALLOTMENTS (minute 1648q). It was noted that the Clerk and Councillor Ord are meeting on-site on 11 October to discuss this, and that no NCC officers will be in attendance.
- q. PLANTING (minute 1648t). It was noted that the Operations Manager's planting plans had been sent to Councillor Ord.
- r. HEXHAM ABBEY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MEETING (minute 1650 and action log refers). It was noted that this has been passed on to the Community Engagement Committee to pursue.
- s. PLANNING VALIDATION CHECKLIST CONSULTATION (minute 1651 and action log refers). It was noted that the Clerk had submitted a response to this.
- t. HEXHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (minute 1652 and action log refers). It was noted that the Clerk had contacted NCC to request that the additional Highford Park green space is added to the Plan. It was also noted that consideration of the future use of the old Hexham Middle School site is on the agenda for the October Full Council meeting.
- u. BIN REQUESTS (minute 1653 and action log refers). It was noted that an order for new bins has been placed and these will be installed in due course.
- v. BENCH REQUEST (minute 1654 and action log refers). It was noted that a bench has been ordered and should arrive by early February.
- w. ANNUAL REVIEW OF CEMETERY CHARGERS AND RULES (minute 1656 and action log refers). It was noted that the Clerk had sent Councillor Domingue information regarding burial numbers and that this was on the agenda for consideration.
- x. DENE PARK PLAY AREA REPAIRS (minute 1658h and action log

	refers). It was noted that additional quotes are pending.
1665.	There were no DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.
1666.	<p>HEXHAM SPACE FOR NATURE PRESENTATION: A presentation was made by Andy Lees, with James Swabey also present. He advised that HS4N is a project hosted through Transition Tynedale, and their aim is to maximise the space for nature and the opportunities for wildlife in Hexham's parks, gardens and open spaces.</p> <p>There are a number of projects HS4N are currently working on, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sele – working with NCC they have created a wildflower section as well as wildflower borders. • The Glade – this is a shaded part of the Sele near Hexham House, where they are working with Hexham Youth Initiative and local schools to improve the area. • Priestlands – working with NCC and Priestlands Residents Group to create a meadow area. • Highford Park – this is land owned by NCC where the fields have been left to grow with no management. Hexham Space for Nature are creating a management plan for the site, looking to its future and conducted a consultation with over 100 residents as part of this. • Hexham Hoedown – managing streets without glyphosate and instead using mechanical means, which has proven effective. • Hexham Swift Heaven – 40 swift boxes have been placed across Hexham in response to the declining numbers. • Hexham Tree Strategy – starting to work on a strategy for the replacement, planting and management of trees across Hexham. <p>HS4N's work with HTC includes creating the wildflower verge outside the Cemetery in 2019 which is showing good signs of progress. Mr Lees also discussed their roadmap for wildlife, climate and people at St Andrew's Cemetery, highlighting areas that could be improved such as boundary management, managing tree planting in the woodland area and reducing the use of bedding plants with alternatives being wildflowers and perennials. It was asked how Hexham in Bloom can be incorporated into their work, and it was noted that they have Hexham in Bloom representatives on their committee, and that the criterion for Northumbria in Bloom judging is changing to include height and wildlife friendly planting.</p> <p>Councillor O'Farrell gave an update on her work with Hexham in Bloom and other organisations, advising that she is looking into leveling, perennial planting, reducing annual bedding and using organic and peat free planting, as well as sourcing local suppliers. She also noted that she is working on a Jubilee project with Hexham Priory School and is working with the Clerk to pull together a list of all the areas managed by the Town Council.</p> <p>Councillor Ord thanked Mr Lees and Mr Swabey for attending and it was AGREED to set up a working group to go through the Cemetery roadmap.</p>
1667.	BIN REQUESTS: It was AGREED to add a bin on at the top of Battle Hill and at Wydon Water car park as requested by residents.

1668.	ANNUAL REVIEW OF CEMETERY CHARGES AND RULES: It was noted that the Clerk had sent Councillor Domingue information on the number and types of burials per annum, and it was AGREED to defer consideration of this to the next meeting to allow Councillor Domingue time to review this.
1669.	SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN: It was noted that Councillors Domingue and Hartland had circulated a draft Sustainability Action Plan to all Committee members for consideration. The priorities were discussed, and it was AGREED for Committee members to input any comments via Google Docs for consideration at the next Committee meeting, noting the aim is to have the completed document ready for consideration at the January 2022 Full Council meeting.
1670.	CORRESPONDENCE: It was noted that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) GOLDFISH AS PRIZES: a request from Councillor Smith to ban the use of goldfish as prizes at events such as fairgrounds was considered. It was AGREED to write to the organisers of Spook Night to request these are not given out at the event and to draft a statement highlighting the Council's dislike of the practice as well as checking new suppliers for future events do not use goldfish as prizes. b) ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS: a quote from SMT Electrical Contractors for the installation of an EV charger in the shed at the Cemetery had been circulated to all Committee members. c) COMMUNITY GARDEN: Councillor Baty had received an email from a resident noting that NCC are still in the process of developing plans for the old Hexham Middle School site and that whilst it is their intention to retain the community garden on site, it may be relocated to another patch. d) RURAL BULLETIN: this had been circulated to all Committee members.
1671.	PLANNING APPLICATIONS: It was AGREED there were no objections to, or comments on, the applications received in accordance with the list circulated and attached to the agenda. Applications 21/03867/FUL (45 Leazes Park), 21/03801/FUL (12 Hextol Terrace), 21/03870/FUL (12 Loughbrow Park) and 21/03893/FUL (14 Elvaston Road) were also considered. It was AGREED there were no objections to these, but to recommend that the highest possible standards of insulation and glazing are used for all four applications.
1672.	NEXT MEETING: It was AGREED that the date of the next online Committee meeting will be Wednesday 10 November 2021 at 5.30pm.

Action Log

Update allotment guidance with the new additions and send to Councillor Ord (minute 1664a).	Councillor Baty/Councillor Ord
Invite the owners of the Old Goods Shed to a meeting (minute 1664b).	Clerk
Source quotes relating to the Cemetery Lodge (minute 1664c).	Operations Manager
Source additional quotes for solar panels, electric vehicle charging points and air source heating at the Cemetery (minute 1664d).	Admin Officer/Clerk
Contact Priestlands Residents Groups re plans for Wydon Park (minute 1664e).	Councillor Ord
Research into setting up a Friends of the Sele group (minute 1664g).	Councillor Ord/Councillor Baty
Keep in touch with Hexham Abbey re solar panel proposals (minute 1664j).	Councillor Baty
Contact QBAA re proposed bonfires at the allotments (minute 1664k).	Councillor Hartland
Arrange collection and safe disposal of remaining glyphosate (minute 1664l).	Admin Officer/Clerk
Pursue North of Tyne crowdfunding for Grow Hexham and report back with any updates (minute 1664m).	Councillor Grennan
Arrange example designs for the Subaru triangle area (minute 1664n).	Councillor Ord
Install bins at Priestlands Crescent and the pathway from Leazes Park estate to Hexham Middle and High School and replace and reposition two bins on Priestlands Estate (minute 1648u).	Operations Manager
Install bench and plaque at old Bus Station (minute 1648v).	Operations Manager
Pursue additional quotes for Dene Park play area repairs (minute 1648x).	Clerk
Set up meeting to discuss the Hexham Space for Nature Cemetery roadmap (minute 1666).	Admin Officer
Install bins at the top of Battle Hill and at Wydon Water car park (minute 1667).	Operations Manager
Review information regarding burials numbers and add review of burial fees for 2022/23 to the next agenda (minute 1668).	Councillor Domingue/Admin Officer
Feedback any comments on the draft Sustainability Action Plan via Google Docs (minute 1669).	All
Write to the organisers of Spook Night to request goldfish are not used as prizes at the event and draft a statement highlighting the Council's dislike of the practice (minute 1670a).	Clerk/Councillor Smith

HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Under the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 3 September 2012 Councillors must declare if they have a disclosable interest in any matters under consideration.

To do so Councillors must use one of the following statements:

1. “I have a disclosable pecuniary interest
in..... (for example) Agenda item 3, Planning
application number 14/1234”.
(NOTE: Code of Conduct paragraphs 11&15 apply).

2. “I have a disclosable personal interest
in..... (for example) Agenda item 4, Grant
aid application by Hexham Youth Initiative
(NOTE: Code of Conduct paragraph 13 applies).

Councillors should familiarise themselves with the Code of Conduct regarding the definitions of (A) pecuniary interest and (B) other personal interest and their obligations when declaring any such interests.

To ensure Councillors interests are correctly minuted please use one of the above statements when declaring an interest.

NB. Should a Councillor wish to take part in the consideration and voting on a matter or matters in which he/she has a disclosable interest then they may request a dispensation be granted to enable them to take part in the discussion and voting on it but at least 10 days’ notice must be given for any dispensation request.

HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL
PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE BUDGET

The Committee has to consider and agree the Committee budget for the year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. This budget will be amalgamated with other Committee budgets so that the Finance & General Purposes Committee can consider this (combined) Council budget in order to present a recommended budget to the Council.

Council will agree a 2022/23 budget and its required precept on 10 January 2022.

The sum in the “2022/23 Draft Budget” column below is an initial suggestion for the Committee to consider.

PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE	2021/22 Agreed Budget	2021/22 Spent at 30/9/2021	2021/22 Estimated at 31/3/2022	2022/23 Draft Budget	Ref.
Personal protective equipment	1500	701	1400	1500	7300
Machines/equipment – fuel/road tax/insurance	7000	3227	7300	8000	7310
Machines/equipment – renew/replace	5000	7087	14500	20000	7315
Machines/equipment – repair/maintain	5500	892	4000	5000	7320
Non-specific expenses	2000	271	800	1000	7330
Stock – caskets and other	7500	2850	7500	9000	7340
Headstone raft foundations	6000	0	8000	0	7350
Debt charges (PWLB)	9905	4952	9905	9905	7360
Heat/light	5000	1048	4000	5000	7370
Premises – repair/maintain	12000	15200	20000	18000	7380
Premises reserve	2000	0	0	2000	5092
Water rate/business rate	2000	878	0	2000	7390
Trees maintenance	3000	0	1000	3000	7410
Insurances (not motor)	6200	6270	6270	6800	7420
Floodlights – repair/maintain	3000	731	2800	3000	7450
Town clock – repair/maintain	900	165	165	900	7460
Dene Park Allotments – maintain	800	506	780	800	7000
QB Allotments – maintain	4000	1573	4000	4000	7020

Wydon Park Allotments – maintain	150	83	150	150	7030
Seats x 59 – repair/maintain/replace	3000	0	1000	3000	7130
Litter bins x 85 – renew/replace	3500	5	3000	3500	7100
Bus shelters x 12 – repair/maintain	2000	0	0	2000	7150
VMS units x 4 – repair/maintain	2000	0	0	2000	7160
Signs – repair/maintain	2000	0	0	4000	7170
Play areas x 8 – repair/maintain	3000	3000	5000	5000	7190
Play areas x 8 – ROSPA inspection	750	692	692	750	7200
Play areas x 8 – vandalism	800	800	1000	1200	7210
Play areas – reserve	2000	1217	2000	2000	5094
Winter Maintenance	2000	0	0	2000	7211
Sustainability	3000	0	0	3000	7215
TOTALS	107505	52148	103762	128505	

HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Planning & Infrastructure Committee

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY
COUNCIL FOR COMMENT ON 10 NOVEMBER 2021

Reference		Applicant
21/03826/FUL	Replace six touring pitches with three static caravan pitches, creation of wildlife ponds, play area with associated landscaping and consolidation of occupancy criteria at Heathergate Country Park, Lowgate, Hexham	Mr Caine
21/03938/FUL	Construction of a one and a half storey rear extension to provide a new kitchen diner to the ground floor and a fourth bedroom to the first floor; internal alterations to convert part of the existing kitchen diner into a work from home study and internal alterations to enlarge the ground floor bathroom and reconfigure the layout of the first floor main bathroom and en-suite at The Orchard, Causey Hill Road, Hexham	Mr & Mrs Coe
21/03931/FUL & 21/03932/LBC	Change of use of upper floors above retail units from offices/retail use into four C3 apartments with external metal stair to rear and insertion of new door onto landing. Also Listed Building Consent for the above at 28A Fore Street, Hexham.	Mr Clark
21/04113/FUL	Demolition of existing pre-fabricated garage and construction of new stone built double garage at Mount Royal, Allendale Road, Hexham	Mr Nick Williams
21/04118/LBC	Listed building consent for replacement of front windows at 1 Temperley Place, Hexham	Seddon
21/02499/ADE	Advertisement Consent: Installation of 4 No. fascia signs, 3 No. booth lettering signs and 1 No. 15" digital booth screen (as amended) at Land At North East Of Bishops Garage Building, Alemouth Road, Hexham.	McDonald's Restaurants Limited
21/02500/ADE	Advertisement consent for 1no. 5 metre high totem sign (as amended) at Land At North East Of Bishops Garage Building, Alemouth Road, Hexham.	McDonald's Restaurants Limited

21/02501/ADE	Advertisement consent for 4 no. Freestanding signs and 14 no. Dot signs (as amended) at Land At North East Of Bishops Garage Building, Alemouth Road, Hexham.	McDonald's Restaurants Limited
21/04283/FELTPO	Tree Preservation Order Application: T1 Small Yew 70cm all round crown reduction, T2 Large Lime 30% crown reduction in terms of height and Crown lift to 5m, T3 Medium Yew 1m all round crown reduction from branch tips in terms of both height and spread, T5 Large beech crown lift, removing 4 lower branches up to 20cm in diameter including those overhanging road, T7 Large Yew Crown reduction of up to 4m in height and reduce overall horizontal spread of crown by 3m on all sides, T8 Large Lime Crown lift to 5m, T9 Large Beech Remove, and XXX Self seeded holly saplings remove at 3 Carlisle Terrace, Hexham.	Mr Francis Charlton
21/04325/FELTPO	Tree Preservation order Application - T1 & T2 Ash - Fell as these trees are suffering from Ash Dieback. Replace with two Silver Birch at 1 Overstone Gardens, Elvaston Road, Hexham.	Mrs F Robson

Applications to be commented upon under Committee’s delegated powers (minute 6588 refers).

Any objections made on applications must be ‘material planning considerations’. To be material, a matter must relate to the “purposes of planning”. The views of local Councils and other consultees can only be taken into account by the planning authority if they are material. Such comments must always bear in mind that:

“The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development” (Paragraph 6 National Planning Policy Framework)

There is no definitive list but examples are:

- National planning policy
- The local planning authority’s planning policies (including Neighbourhood Plans)
- Overlooking/loss of privacy
- Loss of light or overshadowing
- Parking, means of access, highway safety and traffic
- Noise, odours
- Effect on listed building and conservation area
- Layout and density of building
- Design, appearance and materials
- Nature conservation
- Flood risk
- Crime prevention and community safety
- Previous planning decisions
- Views of parish and town councils
- Views of statutory consultees: Highway Authority/Environment Agency/English Heritage/Sport England/Others (neighbouring LPA, HSE, etc.)

Non-material planning considerations include:

- Loss of view
- Negative effects on the value of other properties
- Land ownership or restrictive covenants
- Applicant’s personal circumstances or past conduct (unless exceptional, such as relating to a physical disability in certain circumstances)
- Business competition
- Matters controlled under building regulations or other non-planning legislation
- Disabled person’s access
- The nature of the applicant or owner
- Prospect of a “better” proposal

These are subject to change in national legislation or planning policy. NB All planning applications (and related decisions) are online at: <http://publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk/online-applications>
If Hexham Town Council objects to an application listed above the objection is lodged online.

Hexham Neighbourhood Plan Considerations

Hexham Neighbourhood Plan

Practical Guide May 2021

Following the referendum on 6 May 2021, the Hexham Neighbourhood Plan will now be formally “made” by NCC and become part of the statutory development plan for Northumberland. The Plan’s provisions are, as the Independent Examiner confirmed, the result of ‘comprehensive and robust’ consultation across the town’s population.

Two overarching Planning Policies that address **Sustainability** in widest sense – to sustain/expand Hexham’s economic, social and community well-being base as well as environmental concerns:

HNP1 p18 supports e.g. expansion of community facilities and recreation, new (market and affordable) housing, increasing local employment e.g. tourism, development that increases travel on foot or by bike; use of brownfield for above. All **inside** existing greenbelt boundary (greenbelt dev subject to national policy).

HNP2 p19 establishes **principles for design**: positive attention to local character (different in different parts of town) (developers can be asked how they have met this), with attention to appearance, scale, massing, height, density, access, landscaping, highway safety, residential amenity (e.g. retail, public transport, noise)

and for low carbon technology: embedded renewables (solar, geo-thermal), low carbon build technologies (reduced carbon footprint into future, e.g. insulation, glazing), reduction of water run-off (Sustainable Drainage Systems - SuDS), plus net biodiversity gains or enhancement nearby.

Built Heritage Environment, uniquely strong in Hexham, visually the Hexham story.

HNP3 p21 **Design in the Conservation Area**. Makes existing national CA regulations Hexham-specific. Local character to be sustained or enhanced, with attention to character and setting (neighbours): i.e. views into and out of Hexham, with historic and unique roofscapes, and 3 key historic buildings, lay-out of streets and narrow chares.

HNP4 p25 **Non-designated Heritage Assets**: special protection for specific buildings that have value to local community (list at Annex A). Can be added to.

HNP5 p26 **Shopfront Design**, must respect 2018 NCC Hex Shopfront design guide.

HNP6 p28 **Market Place**: conserve or enhance character, respect highway safety, pedestrians, especially old or with disability, and cyclists.

HNP7 p29 **Designated/Listed Assets**: names buildings, parks, gardens and monuments for clarity.

New Housing, including to redress the imbalance in available housing and respond more strongly to local people’s needs.

HNP8 p31 **Site Allocations**: lists 10 sites with sizes and special considerations.

HNP9 p40 **New Housing Developments**: these must demonstrate how they have considered: trees, wildlife corridors, heritage assets; vehicular and non-vehicular movement and safety; high quality design (see HNP2 and Building for Life 2015); the locally needed mix of housing: more 2- and 3-bedroom houses and bungalows.

HNP10 p41 **Affordable Housing**: market schemes of 10+ houses must include 10%,15% and majority of town 25% affordable homes, to rent or buy, according to NCC/HNP Viability Zones (see map). Some data from Housing Needs Assessment Report provided. Emphasises 1-, 2- and 3-bedrooms.

HNP11 p41 Older People’s housing: including sheltered, supported and bungalows, well served by public transport.

HNP12 p42 **Rural Exception Sites**: follows national policy for new dwellings on greenbelt – must be small sites of affordable homes to benefit *local* people.

Natural Environment and Wellbeing

HNP13-17 pp44-49 **Green Spaces**: lists the protected green spaces the public value, and also covers protection for Tyne Green, wildlife corridors, allotments (+increased provision), and hedgerows/trees/verges (any new build could impact negatively on these, and replacement can be required).

HNP18 p50 **Dark Skies** – link to policy of Northumberland National Park and ‘astro-tourism’.

HNP19 p51 **Community Facilities**: no loss of these, as listed, unless defunct.

HNP20 p52 **Community Renewable Schemes**: support for these, with caveats.

HNP21 p53 support for **Improvements to Walking and Cycling** expected in all applications where it is relevant, and impact of new development on access and safety to be explicitly avoided.

Local Economy

HNP22 p56 **Primary Shopping Area**: aims to maintain the vitality and viability of this crucial area, and explanatory text offers tests to ensure any change of use will contribute positively; conversion to residential above ground floors is supported.

HNP23 p57 **Hotel and Tourism Accommodation** is supported to develop what Hexham offers and to encourage longer stays; Hexham's proximity to key areas (Hadrian's Wall, Dark Skies, North Pennines AONB) can lead to visitor hub status.

HNP24 p58 **New Business Units** for small scale businesses and live-work units. Earlier developments have been very successful.

HNP25 p59 **New Car Parking Facilities**: much needed, but new proposals must meet design criteria HNP2+3, with cycle storage included; if multi-storey, impact to be carefully considered, on setting, views and roofscape.

Section 9 Monitoring and Review

Para 9.1.8 provides a framework for monitoring, registering and reporting achievements within the Plan's policies.

A review of the Plan, also a formal opportunity to make small updates and modifications (e.g. post-pandemic) was planned for 2020 (from 2018). This will presumably now be scheduled for 2022.

NB Also available and useful are NCC/HNP viability zones map and HNP town centre policies map.