

A close-up photograph of a basket filled with fresh vegetables. The basket contains several large onions with golden-brown and purple skins, several bright red tomatoes, two large green cucumbers, and several yellow potatoes. The vegetables are piled together, creating a rich, colorful scene. The lighting is bright, highlighting the textures and colors of the produce.

# HEAR ABOUTS

SEPTEMBER 2019

Photo: Jean Sawyer

The Free Community Magazine for Eglington Parish  
North Charlton | South Charlton | Eglington | & Everywhere Between

# From the Editor

Email: [hearabouts@outlook.com](mailto:hearabouts@outlook.com)

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32 South Charlton  
Alnwick  
Northumberland  
NE66 2NA

Welcome back from your summer holidays, some things never change, just like Hear Abouts.

Oh but wait! We have a huge 20 page edition!

You will be pleased to know that the

Windfarm fund have approved our funding going forward, so you are stuck with our 10 issues a year dropping through your doors for the next 5 years. At our recent AGM, as part of my report, I thanked the rest of the team, our contributors and distributors. However no-one will likely read those minutes - so I'm saying it here. Thank you everyone for continuing to contribute and thank you to everyone who volunteers to make Hear Abouts the success it is!

This issue is a bit of a dry/heavy one, with plenty needing your attention. Details of a Neighbourhood Plan, which there is a questionnaire attached for you to complete, and further feedback is sought on kids play equipment on the field in Eglington now details have been fleshed out. Plenty of bedtime reading for you all!

Scheduling changes for Hear Abouts - At the AGM we agreed to change our editorial meeting schedule to just after publication so we can chase stories for the next issue and work to deadlines better. So those of you who contribute regularly expect an earlier prompt and the soft deadline of the 20th, will become a much harder deadline going forward as we should be more organised.

I'd just like to thank those who visited my exhibition at Alnmouth over the summer, it was very much appreciated.

*Andy*

[www.eglington.info](http://www.eglington.info)

## **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

Hear Abouts is all about you the reader within our Parish. It is written by yourselves (or by those just beyond our borders) and without those submissions there would be no Hear Abouts. Just a few things to note while submitting content to us which helps us out though.

Please **email** all content to the email address [hearabouts@outlook.com](mailto:hearabouts@outlook.com) and no other. There is less chance of it getting lost and forgotten about then. Written content or content on paper will not be accepted. Please send content typed in an attached document file (eg Word). Please name the file with the article title, or be descriptive in it. It gets a little confusing when you have 4 files all called hear\_abouts\_article.docx. Pictures make things pretty! If you have an image to accompany the article great! Pictures tell a thousand words! A good size image helps us deliver a quality print. So ideally images should be around 2000 pixels on the longest edge. Please remember to own or have permission to use the picture you send. Even as a non-profit we are liable to claims of using copyrighted images, even within our small print run.

## **DISCLAIMER**

Just a reminder for the easily offended or argumentative. Please note that the views expressed within are those of the named contributors not the Hear Abouts team. Thank you. Feel free to write in with a reply to anything to be published though!

Also please be aware that Hear Abouts is made available online digitally at [www.eglington.info](http://www.eglington.info) and is searchable worldwide, so any information you provide will be published "beyond our borders".

# 100 Club Results

## July winners

1st Prize £25 Number: 67 Colin Bell  
2nd Prize £15 Number: 9 Geoff Osmond  
3rd Prize £10 Number: 24 Ali Wrangham

## August Winners

1st Prize £25 Number: 35 Alan Jones  
2nd Prize £15 Number: 40 Val O'Reilly  
3rd Prize £10 Number: 37 Anne Gray

Annual subscriptions are now due: £12.00.

Please give to: Marion Wilson, or Margaret Bell  
or in an envelope with your name on in the Village Hall post box (by the door)

*Eglingham Village Hall*

**BIRKETT & FISK**  
PLAY VENUTI AND LANG

"DAZZLING VIOLINIST FISK PLAYS THE CLASSIC EARLY FIDDLE JAZZ OF JOE VENUTI WITH GUITARIST JAMES BIRKETT" GUARDIAN GUIDE EDITORS PICKS

*Friday 6th September*  
*7.30pm (Bar opens 7.00pm)*  
*Tickets £7.50 on the door or book*  
*via Janice 07429514726 or Yvonne 07711294054*

## Eglingham WI

Thursday 11 July was the night of our Annual Meeting. After Brenda had opened the meeting and The Minutes had been approved and signed Janet Laycock, in her role of Link Delegate, gave her report on the WI conference which had been held in Bournemouth. At that event there had been four thousand members present. We had received two invitations from local WIs to attend events and letters of thanks were read from our two centenary charities. We had raised £2000 for the Alnwick Oncology Unit and Wansbeck Palliative Care Unit in memory of Fiona Robson. Our Treasurer, Judith then gave her report on the financial situation which was adopted. In the Secretary's absence Brenda reported on the activities of our group over the past year and then she gave her President's report, which was adopted. The committee stayed the same and Brenda was unanimously voted as President for the coming year.

It was then time for Jo Dickson, WI Advisor, who had overseen the aforementioned activities, to tell us about what had been happening in the Northumberland federation during the year. The theme from our competition was From a Summer Garden. There were many and varied entries and Brenda was judged to be the winner. The raffle was won by Catherine Newton. Following our summer break, we meet again on 12 September when our talk will be on the origin of place names in Northumberland.

*Pat Ives*

EGLINGHAM WI are organising a raffle for Willow Dodds and her family. Willow is just 22 month old. In May, she was diagnosed with stage 4 rhabdomyo-sarcoma cancer. Willow has already had an operation and one round of chemotherapy but will need more chemotherapy and radiotherapy over the next 18 months. Willow's father, Graeme, used to work at The Tankerville Arms in Eglingham as head chef but has had to leave to look after their 3 young sons whilst mum Karla stays in the RVI with Willow. Of course it's a devastating illness at any age, but in a 22 month old child it seems so very cruel.

To help the family with the financial burden at this stressful time, the WI has decided to hold a raffle. Local people and businesses have been very generous, and Jane Comley has managed to negotiate some amazing prizes. The tickets are only a £1 each and are already much in demand.

The WI are hoping to sell tickets at events in the parish before the prizes are drawn in October. If you could help us in any way, or would like to buy a ticket, please get in touch with any of the following members who can arrange for tickets to be delivered.

Jane Comley	<a href="mailto:janafelicity@live.co.uk">janafelicity@live.co.uk</a>	01668 215145
Brenda Robertson	<a href="mailto:Brobertson2852@gmail.com">Brobertson2852@gmail.com</a>	01665 579337
Judith Price	<a href="mailto:coachhouseeglingham@gmail.com">coachhouseeglingham@gmail.com</a>	01665 578952
Carolyn Brewster	<a href="mailto:c4brewster@gmail.com">c4brewster@gmail.com</a>	01665 578655

The more we sell, the more money we will be able to give to help Willow and her family  
Thank you for your support  
*Brenda Robertson*

# WI FOR WILLOW RAFFLE

OCTOBER 10TH 2019  
PRIZES IN ORDER OF DRAW

**The Cookie Jar, Alnwick Mid week one night stay**  
**The Percy Arms, Chatton One night B&B**  
**The Stables, Hazelrigg Breakfast for up to 5 with tour of stables and gallops**  
**The Milan, Wooler Meal for two**  
**Craggside, National Trust Entry for family of 4**  
**Chillingham Castle Family pass for castle and grounds**  
**Tankerville Arms, Eglington Meal for 2 including wine**  
**Cookie Jar, Alnwick Afternoon tea for 2**  
**Ramblers Café, Wooler Cream tea for 2**  
**Alnwick Garden Family Day ticket**  
**Alnwick Garden Round of golf for 2 adults and upto 4 kids**  
**Good Life Shop, Wooler £15 voucher**  
**Co-op, Wooler £5 voucher**  
**Beauty shop, Wooler Nail products**

**And prizes still being negotiated from...**

**Sainsbury's**  
**Majestic wines**  
**Doddington's**  
**Alnwick Gardens Johnson's the Butchers, Wooler**  
**Potted Lobster, Bamburgh**  
**Billy Sheil's boats**

## BREAKING NEWS: WOMEN'S PAIR QUALIFY FOR TOKYO 2020!

Why does that matter in Eglington Parish you may ask?...

Well, none other than our very talented Great Britain rower, Sam Courty, of South Charlton, and her crew partner Annie Withers qualified the boat for the trip to the Tokyo Olympics next year!

We of course wish Sam well and the best of luck as her training continues!

Taken from her Facebook:

*"Officially qualified the GB women's pair for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. It's been a rollercoaster of a season but it's amazing what a bit of stubbornness and self-belief can get you"*



# Pilates New Beginnings!

**Classes return to Eglingham Village Hall with a new instructor!**

**Monday Evenings 7.00 – 8.00 p.m. starting Monday 16th September 2019**

This Pilates class is suitable for men and women, no experience necessary, and no 'specialist clothing' just loose, comfy leisure clothes. You will work standing and lying on the floor, on a mat (or even from a chair if you have difficulties) on your back or stomach, holding positions and giving your body a real stretch. You only do what your body will allow, you will have choices. There is no sweating and heaving! The exercises increase core strength, and posture and flexibility can improve. There is always time to rest and relax within the classes. Take some time out to concentrate on your body: how it feels, and how it responds. Why not give it a try?

Each session costs £6.00

Further info email Ali Wrangham at: [aliwrangham@btconnect.com](mailto:aliwrangham@btconnect.com)

## Thanks

"Following my 'adventure' in the Freeman Hospital recently I would like to thank everyone who firstly looked out and after Alan while I 'holidayised' in the Freeman for over three weeks! Thank you all who fed him, brought him to the hospital for visits, phoned him, sent their love and best wishes, for your cards and gifts. The procedure was for a day - maybe two, but things not going to plan I ended up in the Freeman for three weeks. Will have to return to the hospital to start again, hopefully just for a couple of days next time.

Thanking you

*Florence*

*Tic Toc Cottage*

## The Eglingham Calendar 2020

It's not long now until the closing date for entries for next year's Eglingham calendar. The theme for 2020 is 'Colours of Eglingham Parish'.

We are looking for photos which show the many different colours to be found in the area during the year. Some ideas..... a colourful sunrise or sunset, a snow scene, autumn leaves, spring flowers, honeysuckle or berries in the hedgerows, fruit on trees in the garden, colourful wildlife such as butterflies or birds.

No doubt there are plenty more possibilities so make the most of the opportunities over the coming days to capture some colourful images. Don't forget to search through photos you've taken over the past year so that we have a good selection of all seasons. You don't need to have an expensive camera to take a good photo. In recent years we have received some excellent quality photos taken on mobile phones.

We have already received a good number of entries but the more we have to choose from, the better the calendar will be so if you would like to submit photos for possible inclusion in next year's calendar, could you please send them to [eglinghamcalendar@gmail.com](mailto:eglinghamcalendar@gmail.com) as soon as possible and no later than Saturday 14th September.

All photos must be landscape shape in order to fit the calendar page and should be sent in jpeg format. Please be sure to include the name of the photographer and a title with each photo.

We look forward to receiving your entries!

*Julian Tyley, Eglingham Community Association*

## Hold the front page! ....Parish Walk held on a dry day

It had to happen eventually; despite dire BBC Weather predictions in the week leading up to the walk, the day itself turned out warm and dry. A great relief to all.

There were 26 walkers from across the Parish. Most did the longer walk and were rewarded with some beautiful, not often seen, views of our countryside in particular Kimmer Lough. Almost all had no trouble following the route instructions; though one group from the west end of the parish, to whom we will Grant anonymity, marched to their own drum and did the route in reverse! It's a free country. Another pair of walkers added their own extra bits to the walk and as time went on there was some concern for them back at the hall. Not for their safety, but in case all the tea would be eaten before they got back!

However there was no realistic chance of that happening, despite the sterling efforts of many diners, as the tables were groaning with the weight of all the delicious sandwiches and cakes that had been prepared and baked. No one went hungry despite over 40 folk turning up for the traditional post walk tea! This was the tenth occurrence of the Parish Walk, which was initiated by the Hear Abouts team in 2008 as a Summer Stroll. An event to bring together residents from all corners of the parish. It was good to see that this tenth walk did exactly that. Hopefully next year's walk will continue the tradition when it will be held in the South Charlton end of the Parish.



## Lonesome tonight...most nights actually

Now, don't be cruel about my complex heritage. We can be sure that I'm definitely not a hound dog as I've never caught a rabbit – that's more Millie and Chance's thing – but the volunteers at Alexa's Animals can't help falling in love with me. We've had a busy summer so I will start with the good news. Kevin, who you met in June, and little Poppy, didn't stay long here in heartbreak hotel. Then Max the Westie finished his eye treatment and moved out to Swarland on trial. Miss Tibbs sealed the deal with the first person who patted her -you'd have to have a wooden heart not to fall for those love-me-tender eyes – and finally Sphynx bagged one to train up, let's hope he doesn't return to sender! The last few weeks had us all shook up by the thunder and heavy rain; two blocked drains on the side of the A1 made our yard look like



Niagara and people had to get a bit creative with bin bags and builder's sand to divert the torrent. If any of you fancy a similar challenge you could put on your blue suede shoes and mosey along to the Hindmarsh Hall in Alnmouth for our quiz night on Saturday 7th September (sadly, no dam-building round) but plenty to occupy suspicious minds. The fun starts at 7pm and it is £5 per person with a pooled supper – Carolyn on 01665 830261 will sort you out with tickets and more gen. We also have our AGM at South Charlton Village Hall on the 18th September at 7pm; please come along to meet our humans and find out more about Alexa's Animals.

I've been avoiding the subject but it's now or never; an old favourite here, Rocco, hit the end of the road when his legs just couldn't be relied on to hold him up any more. He was 16 and knew how to see the Hawaiian sunset in the greyest of days; his smiling face and lolloping tongue are always on my mind. I'm being told to wrap this up with a little less conversation so just time to ask you to come and have a look at my details at [www.alexasanimals.com](http://www.alexasanimals.com) I'd so like to be your teddy bear.

There are 16 clues here – surely I don't have to tell you my name!

## Eglingham Community Field Children's Playpark: Consultation

As readers may recall, there was a consultation in May on potential uses for the Community Field, organised by the Parish Council. This was in response to a proposal by Eglingham Community Association for a children's playpark and 4 pieces of adult outdoor gym equipment on part of the field. The outcome of that initial consultation is available on the Eglingham Parish website under the "Minutes 2019" section at: <http://www.eglingham.info/minutes-meetings>

The results of the consultation and the proposed scheme were discussed at the June Parish Council meeting. In response to those discussions, Eglingham Community Association has modified the children's playpark design to give a smaller footprint and removed the adult gym equipment part of the plan.

The design is from a company called "Creative Play", which has been building playgrounds across the UK since 1991, has the relevant professional certifications and guarantee their materials for 20 years. The company was chosen after extensive research by the Community Association.

### Aims

- To provide a playpark suitable for children from toddlers to 12 years for:
  - o Children of the Parish, now and in the future.
  - o The grandchildren of residents of the Parish.
- To provide a child-oriented focus for the Parish.
- To improve the health and wellbeing of children in the Parish, including opportunities for socialising.

### Features

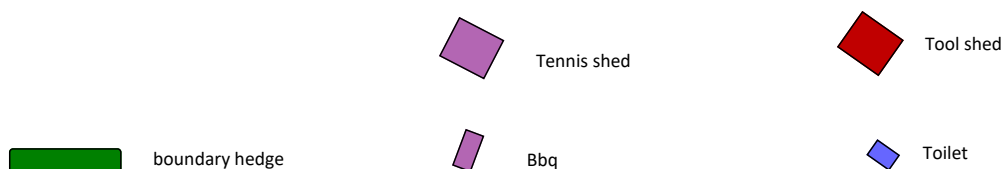
- Timber-based play equipment with 20-year guarantee.
- Accent colour specified as green to be visually unobtrusive.
- Two-tower system of 1.5 and 1.8m and low-level adventure trail, giving a broad range of play options for children of a range of ages and abilities, for a very modest footprint.



- Basket swing, suitable for young and older children, and those with physical disabilities.
- A low-level roundabout.
- A play shop under the taller tower.
- Grass matting – providing safety and preventing erosion whilst allowing the grass to grow through and be mown.
- The total cost of the revised proposal is £30, 100. If a favourable response is obtained from the local community and the Parish Council, then an application would be made to the Wind Farm Fund.

### Plan View in Relation to Rest of Field

This image gives a scale view of the proposal in relation to the rest of the field, though there are minor differences in the equipment shown.



## Image of the Proposed Playpark

This shows the proposed layout, including some example pictures of play equipment in situ.



The Outdoor Play Experts

Proposed Play Equipment for **EGLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

JIGSAW TOWER SYSTEM, BASKET SWING, SPINNER, ADVENTURE TRAIL 10



API  
Association of Play Industries  
We're a member!  
Find out more at:  
<http://www.api-play.org/>



Grass Mats



Jigsaw Tower System



Jigsaw Tower System



Spinner without Seating



Basket Swing



Example Adventure Trail



Creative Play is the trading name of Creative Play (UK) Limited  
PO Box 707, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 5JG

01244 375 627  
sales@creativeplayuk.com  
www.creativeplayuk.com

CreativePlayUK  
CreativePlayUK  
Creative-playuk

PLAY ADVISOR: PHIL SPEIGHT  
QUOTE REFERENCE: 241/02  
REVISION NUMBER: 1

DRAWN BY: DO  
CHECKED BY: DO  
DATE: 31/07/2019

## Image of the Tower System

The higher tower is only accessible by scramble netting as a safety feature to discourage very young children from accessing it.



The Outdoor Play Experts

PRODUCT PAGE – EGLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL



## Discussion

If anyone would like to discuss details of the proposal further, please contact me at:

Penny Garrod 07801 357035

Email: [pennygarrod@doctors.org.uk](mailto:pennygarrod@doctors.org.uk)

*Penny Garrod on behalf of Eglingham Community Association*

## Eglingham Community Field consultation

An initial consultation was undertaken by the Parish Council to determine the views of residents of the Parish to the suggestion that a children's play area and an adult training circuit should be established on the community field at Eglingham.

The consultation ran from the 8th of May until the 1st of June and residents were contacted by use of the residents email circulation list and an article in HearAbouts. Subsequently the promoters of the proposal, the Eglingham Community Association (ECA) presented detailed plans to the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed not to make a decision on the proposals until such time as these detailed proposals had been put to the local community.

This edition of HearAbouts contains the detailed plans.

Should any resident wish to add a new comment or add further comments or express differing views, to their previously submitted comments then please submit these to the Parish Council by 9 October :-

By email to [eglinghampc@gmail.com](mailto:eglinghampc@gmail.com)

By letter to Amy Smith, Parish Clerk 25 Blakelaw Court, Alnwick, NE661BY

Or drop your comments through the letterbox at 23 Eglingham Village

*Eglingham Parish Council*

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

[wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk) – Tel. 07779 983072 and on Facebook Cllr Wendy Pattison

### EGLINGHAM PARISH

**Eglingham Village** – On Friday 5th July I met with the Chairman of Eglingham Parish Council, Cllr David Alston, Vice Chair, Cllr Paul McIver and NCC Traffic Manager, Neil Snowdon to look at the current village traffic system and what changes can be made in order to make Eglingham a much safer place to live for all residents. A traffic design plan for the village will now be drawn up and all residents will be consulted on the design and able to provide their comments/feedback.

**South Charlton 30mph** – Discussions are in progress for South Charlton Village to have a 30mph speed limit.

**Winter is coming!** – A collaborative venture is planning to open wood fuel log banks

across Northumberland. A pilot log bank is currently being established near Wooler under the auspices of the Glendale Gateway Trust. Logs are now being gathered which will be available for people who may be rurally isolated, in poor health, or, have financial constraints or just simply getting older and finding it difficult to handle or obtaining logs. The wood will be delivered to all homes by volunteers with appropriate skills, and they will stack the logs and carry out basic checks to ensure fire safety and/or ascertain whether any other assistance is required.

For more information, contact Kate Thick, Email [katethick@hotmail.com](mailto:katethick@hotmail.com) or telephone 07900963234

**9 Parishes Meeting** – A meeting of the 9 Parishes comprising the Longhoughton Ward will be held on Friday, October 4th at 6.30pm at the Parish Rooms Embleton.

Invited speakers will be County Councillor Glen Sanderson, NCC Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Local Services, along with Andrea Cowans, NCC Dog Warden.

## Eglingham Parish Council

### The Proposed Eglingham Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Following discussions and a presentation from a County Council officer, the Parish Council has resolved to pursue the adoption of a Neighbourhood plan. In doing so, it follows some thirty-eight other Parish Councils across the County. The plan will be designed to co-ordinate with the strategic policies of the emerging Northumberland local plan and will clearly set out the aspirations of the community in relation to certain areas of development.

A steering group has been established; the Parish has been 'designated' as an area suitable for a Neighbourhood plan; and basic information has been collated and is set out in the 'Background Information document' which also and much more fully explains the potential benefits of a Neighbourhood plan; the Parish Council's objectives; the matters presently proposed to be addressed by the Neighbourhood plan; and how the Parish Council hopes to engage local people in an exercise which is intended to benefit our communities for many years to come.

Readers are strongly encouraged to read the Background Information document which is available on the Parish Council's website: [eglinghampc@gmail.com](mailto:eglinghampc@gmail.com) . Copies are also available at Eglingham and South Charlton Village Halls.

The steering group comprises the following Parish Councillors: David Alston (Chairman of the Parish Council), Andy Gray and David Biesterfield. In addition, Peter Ridgway has been invited to join the group as he has extensive planning experience. As North Charlton is currently unrepresented, we would encourage someone living there to join the group\*.

The Parish Council's principal motivations for seeking to adopt a Neighbourhood plan for the Parish are:

(1) to investigate and establish the value of the landscapes comprising and abutting the Parish, with a view to redesignating it as an 'Area of High Landscape Value' (or similar);

(2) through the introduction of a Design Code, to ensure that (principally residential) development within the Parish is of a scale, design and quality in keeping with the existing character of our villages and their settings (while allowing for appropriate innovation and originality).

Other areas proposed to be covered by the Neighbourhood plan are:

- The possible reintroduction of settlement boundaries for Eglingham and South Charlton and the creation of one, for the first time, for North Charlton.
- The designation of Local Green Spaces in each settlement.

However, the consultation that this article begins also aims to identify other ideas that the Neighbourhood plan might incorporate (although, as the Background Information document explains, there are regulatory constraints limiting their scope).

The Parish Council is very keen to maximise community engagement and to that end:

- As well as the Background Information document and its supporting material, updates regarding the process will be published on the PC's website: <http://www.eglingham.info/nplan> and in Hear Abouts;
- Parish residents, businesses and stakeholders are encouraged to complete and return the questionnaire attached to the Background Information document. Copies are also available from , Eglingham and South Charlton Village Halls (guidance on how to complete and return the questionnaire is contained within it);
- There will be meetings at Eglingham and South Charlton village halls on, respectively, Monday 30th September (South Charlton) and Tuesday 1st October (Eglingham) from 6 – 7 p.m. At these meetings, members of the steering group will be available to listen to the ideas of constituents and to answer their questions;
- In addition or alternatively, local people are invited to submit their further questions and/or ideas in writing to: [eglinghamclerk@gmail.com](mailto:eglinghamclerk@gmail.com). Those questions and comments should be submitted by not later than Friday 11th October.

As the Neighbourhood Plan takes shape, the Parish Council will keep local people informed of developments. The Parish Council hopes that the eventual document will serve our communities well and enhance their influence and input in terms of NCC's decisions affecting us all.

\* N.B. All members of the group are expected to declare any conflicts of interest arising in the context of any area of discussion.

## Emails to the Clerk to the Parish Council

Amy has set up a dedicated email address to use to contact the clerk.

Please use this address - [eglinghamclerk@gmail.com](mailto:eglinghamclerk@gmail.com)

The email for the Parish Council direct remains - [eglinghampc@gmail.com](mailto:eglinghampc@gmail.com)

# Parish Council Update regarding the Northumberland Local Plan Examination in Public

The Parish Council hopes to be represented at the above Examination in Public in support of its representations on the draft Local Plan's Renewable Energy policies and recently received (as will have many constituents, direct) notification of the hearing sessions beginning on 8th October at County Hall in Morpeth. Those wishing to speak at the hearings are required to so confirm by 17th September by which date any pre-hearing statements also have to be filed.

However, it transpires that a number of matters, including the draft Local Plan's Renewable Energy policies, are to be considered not in October/November but at 'phase 2' hearings in January/February, next year. We will be advised of the proposed dates after the conclusion of the 'phase 1' hearings and the relevant dates for confirming rights of audience and for filing pre-hearing statements will also be given at that time.

It remains to be seen whether or to what extent this slight delay will assist or impede acceptance of the Parish Council's case.

## Heavy Traffic Through Eglington & South Charlton

Just beyond the Eglington Parish boundary on the edge of Rock village, the Rock Estate some time ago developed a substantial wood-chipping plant without planning permission at Rock Midsteads farm. Although the County Council took no enforcement action on this breach of Section 57 of the principal Planning Act, the Estate retrospectively applied for consent, last year\*.

*\* A retrospective application gains no special status just because the use has been ongoing for some time.*

Responding to concerns of its residents, Eglington Parish Council objected to the application on, essentially, two grounds: noise directly generated by the plant and the potential impact of heavy lorries servicing it, on the villages of Eglington and South Charlton.

The applicant's 'Technical Note' supporting the application revealed that the plant's Monday-Saturday (inclusive) operation would be between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. (sometimes later) and "typically" would generate 24 vehicle movements per day, the vast majority of which would involve 44 ton (gross weight), six-axle wagons. However, the Technical Note was only concerned with an assessment of "*..the swept-paths of HGVs **into and around Rock Midstead Farm...***" - it was apparent that the applicant had made no study of impacts on Eglington and South Charlton, nor did the Technical Note address them in any way.

On 2nd May our clerk, Amy Cartmell, wrote to the County Council: "*The principal focus of the Parish Council's concern.... is the inadequacy of the road network through, in*

*particular, Eglingham & South Charlton..., to accommodate the very large lorries that travel to & from the woodchip facility for which retrospective consent is now sought..... So as to ensure that the issue is both properly understood & resolved, we request a meeting with planning & highways officers before the matter is further considered."*

Amy received no acknowledgment or reply to her letter. However, on 6th June, a 'round-robin' communication advised Amy of a proposed site visit to take place on Monday 17th June. She fairly assumed the meeting was to be that requested by the Parish Council. I attended it on that basis.

Councillor Trevor Thorne, as Chairman of the County Council's Central Planning Committee, presided over what transpired to be an unsatisfactory meeting. Notably, despite the fact that Eglingham Parish Council had requested the meeting and the obvious relevance of the matters it had raised, Councillor Thorne refused to allow those present to ask any questions (only 'points of information' would be permitted\*\*) and attempts to clarify the traffic impact of the plant on Eglingham and South Charlton were blocked.

*\*\* I made clear that I did not seek to 'debate' the application – it is correct that such 'debates' may compromise the planning authority's subsequent consideration of a particular application.*

At the end of the meeting, I managed to dress-up the following question as a 'point of information':

*"Has the Council's Highways Department studied or does it have access to the number, frequency, timing & size of vehicles that presently &/or will deliver logs to & remove woodchip from the site, **passing through the villages of South Charlton & Eglingham?**"*

As the planning officer confirmed, that information was not available (the information contained in the applicant's Technical Note was unrelated to our villages, although we suspected that, probably, most wagons would pass through both).

In its ultimate report to the planning committee, the Council's Highways Department stated:

*"The proposal has been examined by the Highway Development Management Team (HDM). HDM assess the impact of any proposed development on the highway network, both during construction and once development is completed. The HDM seek to ensure adequate manoeuvring/ parking space is provided, safe access can be achieved, the highway remains free for the passage of all users of the highway and so it does not have an adverse impact on the safety of all users of the highway."*

This assessment, skewered towards the development site itself, did not address the number of vehicles potentially passing through Eglingham and South Charlton. Without that information, any assessment relevant to those villages would be futile.

Immediately following the meeting, I raised the same question in an email to the Council's Highways Department (again, no acknowledgment or reply from that Department has ever been received). I also wrote to Councillor Thorne repeating the

question and asking that the forthcoming Thursday's consideration of the application be deferred until our Parish Council had received the requested information and had an opportunity to comment on it.

Our request for deferment was ignored and the application was granted subject, for present purposes, to conditions intended to ameliorate noise directly generated by the plant and to the following condition regarding traffic movements\*\*\*:

*“Not more than 55 lorries, associated with the use, shall enter and not more than 55 lorries, associated with the use, shall leave the site per day between Monday and Friday. No other HGV deliveries or collection, associated with the use, shall take place on any other day or times.*

*Reason: To ensure local residential receptors are not unduly impacted by noise from additional HGV road traffic.”*

*\*\*\* The site's operation was restricted to 0800-1700, Mondays-Fridays, and to 0800-1200 on Saturdays.*

This condition and the stated reason for it make clear that:

- The County Council's planning members made their decision without knowing how many vehicles would actually travel through our villages, as opposed to using other routes;
- Whatever their routes, the “typical” number of heavy lorries travelling to and then from the site (presently, some 24 per day, according to the applicant) was not only thought acceptable but, implicitly, there were no good reasons to prevent that number increasing, through intensified use of the site, to up to 110 traffic movements per day. That leap of faith seems to me to compound the error of failing properly to consider traffic impacts on our villages.

I followed-up my concerns in this case with further written enquiries and a meeting with the County Council's new Director of Planning, Rob Murfin, from which the following information has subsequently emerged:

### **Heavy Traffic Through Eglington and South Charlton:**

- The County Council's “functional hierarchies for its roads...” were approved in 2008 after ‘consultation’ (I have no knowledge of this). *“This exercise resulted in the routes in question being classified as follows:-*
  - *B6346 Alnwick to Wooperton (via Eglington village) - This is defined as a **Secondary Distributor Route**, linking smaller towns and larger villages, known as service centres, and significant HGV generators to the Resilient Road Network or Main Distributor Network. The primary function of these roads is to facilitate the efficient movement of vehicular traffic, including freight distribution. **Where possible we would like to encourage traffic to use these roads rather than smaller local routes** [So, the County Council wishes to encourage an increase heavy vehicle movements through Eglington.] Consequently, it is likely that this route will continue to be included on the Agreed Route Map.*



- *B6347, A1 to B6346 (via South Charlton) - This is defined as a **Minor Link Route** These roads serve smaller villages, local communities and residential estates that may or may not have small schools and individual shops or facilities such as pubs or cafes. These are likely to serve areas with a population less than 500. The roads are likely to be of varying width or have a significant number of vehicles parking on them and are therefore reliant on drivers being considerate as the roads are not always capable of carrying two-way traffic.”*

[Elsewhere, these routes are referred to as ‘unrestricted, agreed logging routes’ meaning that there is no limit to the number, frequency or size of wagons that can use them, regardless of impact.]

- I have also been told that the route through South Charlton “...will be subject to future review with North East Timber Transport Group (NETTG) regarding its future inclusion on the Agreed Route Map.” This suggests that our Parish Council and residents will be not be consulted in the context of the review.
- The County Council justifies its apparent disregard of South Charlton’s interests, in the Rock Midsteads context, on the basis that: “...the section of road is an Agreed Route and this forms a material consideration in the assessment of acceptability of the proposed operation at Rock Midsteads.” [But that ignores the counter, but equally important material consideration - the actual, likely impact on, particularly, South Charlton, an issue obfuscated and ignored, despite the Parish Council’s attempts to clarify it. Now, the permitted existence of the Rock Midsteads plant will probably be used as a reason why the route through South Charlton cannot be restricted.]
- Apparently, “...the use of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) [could be used] to restrict or prevent access should circumstances deem it appropriate. TROs are subject to a publicity and consultation process.... **It is intended, this Autumn, to further consult with the NETTG on the Council’s intention to align the agreed timber routes map with the Hierarchy**, in particular to ensure that the use of other routes for timber extraction is subject to prior consultation & agreement of a Timber Transport Management Plan to mitigate any adverse impacts etc. ....” [The reference to “other routes” suggests that it is very probably all too late for Eglingham and South Charlton – but, the Parish Council will attempt to represent local interests in the proposed consultation.]

## Lessons

The good news is that the new Director of Planning appears to support the need for the County Council to pay greater respect to the role and views of Parish Councils and their constituents; he tells me that Councillors are to be “retrained”; various ‘protocols’ are to be reviewed; and he intends to address ‘staff resources’.

The efficacy of these proposals remains to be seen but an early test will be whether the County Council’s Planning and Highways officers start to reply to important correspondence.

## Conclusion

Sadly, the experience described above is neither isolated nor unusual. For too long and especially since Northumberland became a unitary authority, there has been far too great a gap between local people and County Hall. That is one of the principal reasons why Eglington Parish Council has resolved to pursue proposals for a Neighbourhood plan (more fully explained elsewhere in this edition of Hear Abouts).

I urge you to follow, participate in and support the proposed Neighbourhood plan in the hope that we can more fully ensure that County Hall's decision making, where it affects us, is responsive to and protective of our interests.

Locally, of course, our County Councillor is Wendy Pattison who, on numerous issues, unquestionably 'fights our corner'. However, with great respect to her, it is in the fields of 'Planning' and 'Highways' that her stronger advocacy and support is required. We hope that she will vociferously support the Neighbourhood plan and its objectives.

*David Biesterfeld (Parish Councillor)*

## Leek Show Results

Slightly earlier than usual Brownieside and South Charlton Leek Club held their annual show on August 24th.

Some impressive and less than impressive (I'm not naming and shaming) leeks were on show, along with Vegetables, Flowers, Baking and Art/Crafts.

### ***Leek Show Results were as follows:***

*1st - Alan Warnaby*

*2nd - Bob Stuart*

*3rd - Dot Stuart*

*4th - Bill Newton*

*5th - Andy Gray (yes I still don't believe it!)*

*Highest Lady - Dot Stuart*

*Best Leek in Show - Bill Newton*





**Mind and Sole  
Invites you to  
"Time For Me"  
on  
27th September 2019  
10am to 12 pm**

**St Michaels Church Hall, Alnwick**

We all work on auto pilot sometimes doing the same things over and over. Sometimes it gets too much and then we wonder how we got here.

Mind and Sole invite's you to a morning of cakes and coffee, and hopefully bit of laughter?

In a safe area for adults to discuss their own well-being, Knowing that everyone around you have the same worry's or concerns.

The next 2 hours are for you, sit back, relax, and enjoy the company.

We are very lucky to be able to end the morning with a small sample Shiatsu, from Denise Howe

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/time-for-me-tickets-70891639803>

for information please contact Christine on 07825396072 or email [mindandsole1@gmail.com](mailto:mindandsole1@gmail.com)

# Useful Contacts

Local Councillor

Wendy Pattison: 07779 983072

Clerk to the Parish Council

Amy Smith: 01665 603755

Vicar

Contact your Church Wardens

South Charlton Village Hall (bookings)

Andy Gray:

[andrewsgraydesign@gmail.com](mailto:andrewsgraydesign@gmail.com)

Eglingham Village Hall (bookings)

Julian Tyley: 01665 578460

Oil Buying Group

[geoffosmond2@gmail.com](mailto:geoffosmond2@gmail.com)

residents@ Email List Admin

[david@eglingham.org.uk](mailto:david@eglingham.org.uk)

## Have you found the Parish Website yet?

It has pages for all the local organisations, back issues of Hear Abouts, Parish Council meeting notes and much more. It now has a new feature "Upcoming Events" which lists, well, upcoming events.

The web address is: [www.eglingham.info](http://www.eglingham.info)

Once there you use the menu 'hamburger' in the top right corner (depending on the size of screen) to select which page you want.



The website is now being updated with new content more frequently so why not bookmark it in your browser and keep in touch with all that is going on in the Parish.

## Residents @ Email List

A resident of the Parish? Then if you haven't already... Sign up for our community email list!

Our very successful email list is open to any resident within our boundaries, just send an email to [david@eglingham.org.uk](mailto:david@eglingham.org.uk) and you will get added.

Next Issue:

Early October 2019

Content Must be submitted by 20th September