CommunityTalk

IN RENNINGTON, ROCK & STAMFORD WINTER 2024

Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

Reflecting your views from our last round of consultations - we produced, after a number of versions, a draft Neighbourhood Development Plan that we sent to the County Council for their comments. As our Plan included one development site in Rock and one in Stamford we had to await their decision whether a Strategic Environment Assessment and/or Habitat Regulation Assessment would be required; we needed this decision before we could apply for grant funding and commission work on this important element of the Plan. The County Council has since advised that both assessments will be needed and work on both is now underway.

As soon as we have received both assessments we will make any necessary amendments to the Plan at which point we will consult with ALL stakeholders including the County Council. This is a statutory stage and known as the Regulation 14 Consultation. We will probably need to revise some sections of the Plan in light of the comments we receive prior to consulting with you again.

We will then produce a new consultation document highlighting the key issues for you to consider and distribute it together with a questionnaire for you to complete. As before we will be organising two public meetings - one in Rock and the other in Rennington. Your views will be an important element in our evidence base and we do need your active participation.

Following your feedback we will again submit the now updated Plan to the County Council who will carry out a further stage of consultation with all the same people who were consulted at the previous stage. This is known as the Regulation 16 stage and we are told that the process will take six weeks. The Plan together with all the responses to the consultation and all other related documents (too many to mention here!) is then given to the Independent Examiner.

Following the Independent Examiner's findings, the Examiner (all being well!) will pass the Plan (pending any suggested changes) and the Plan then proceeds to the Referendum managed by the County Council.

It's a time-consuming process but - on the positive side - we are making progress albeit not as quickly as we would wish!

Alan Tremlett

Community Resilience and Emergency Plan

It has been over eighteen months since our volunteers for the Community Resilience and Emergency plan were issued with their hi-vis vests and head torches, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. Fortunately, following Covid and Storm Arwen in quick succession in 2020-2021, our parish hasn't suffered another 'once in a lifetime' event that necessitates the calling of an emergency. But as recent hurricanes in America and floods in Spain have demonstrated, such events can never be ruled out. So it is opportune, as we approach winter, to remind residents what the plan covers.

In an emergency - as the flyer recently put through your letterboxes explains - you will be contacted by a volunteer to ensure you are aware that an emergency has been called. They will check with you to ensure you are safe and ask if you have any urgent and essential needs such as medication.

In some circumstances Rennington Village Hall will open as a safe centre, providing warmth, food and drink and social contact.

Remember, the volunteer group are not the emergency services. They are lay people who are offering their services to assist, in whatever helpful ways they can, should an emergency arise.

If you have any questions about the Community Resilience and Emergency Plan, feel free to contact Fred Bosanquet on 07989 396 982.

Bird Watch

The visit of a little egret to the village for several days during August prompted me to write about herons. These long-legged, large-footed, pointy-beaked, birds are most commonly found wading through shallow water. Some, such as the grey heron, are common and can be seen on almost any stretch of water in the UK, from the seashore to small pools, garden ponds and along lake and river banks. Less common members of the heron family include the egrets (little egret, great white egret and cattle egret in the UK) and the bittern. Bitterns are shy birds which live in reedbeds and are hard to spot. In spring males emit a low pitched 'booming' sound which carries for some distance in the hope of attracting a mate.

Little Egret

Grey Heron

Bittern

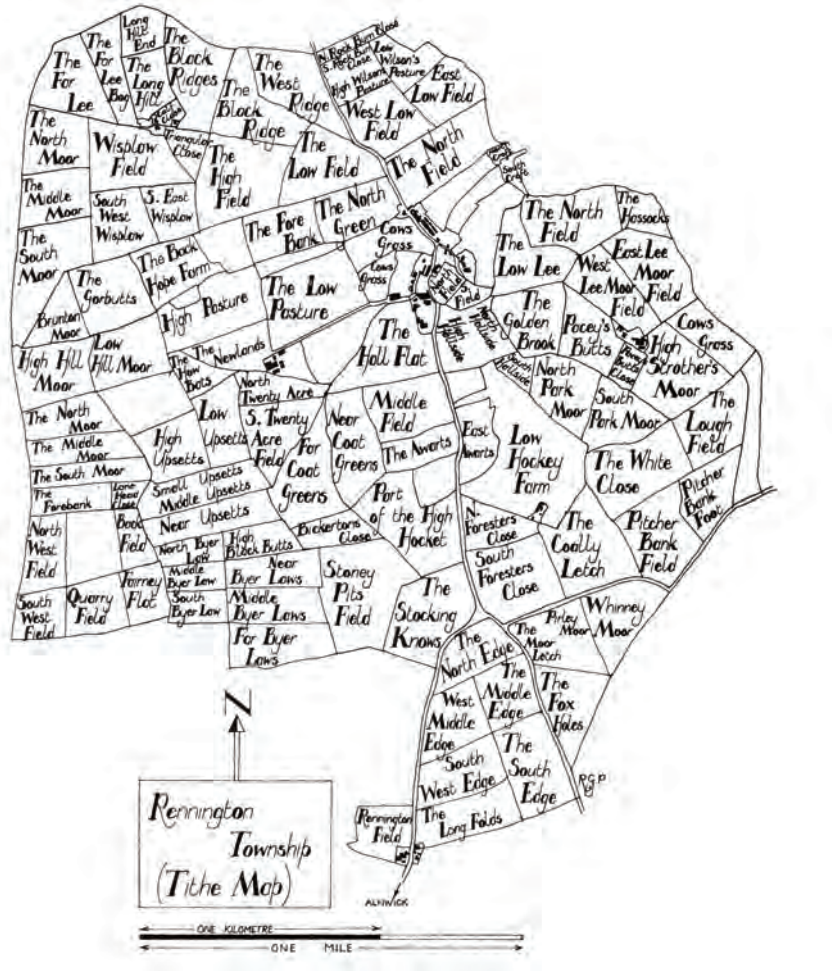
Herons are opportunist feeders and will eat virtually anything that fits into their powerful bill including insects, fish, amphibians, small mammals and even small birds, such as ducklings. I once watched a grey heron catch a 3 foot eel and swallow it whole, head first, over the course of about 15 minutes.

Egrets used to be rare in the north of England but with climate change little egrets are now commonly seen, particularly along the sea shore. Great white and cattle egrets are much less common in Northumberland but are established further south and are likely to move northwards in the future.

Tim Walls

Times Past...

Place names and their origins never fail to fascinate. So we thought you may like to see the Tithe Map for the village of Rennington - known apparently in Old English as 'Regna's named settlement'. Tithe maps were produced between 1838 and 1850 following the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 as part of the process to ensure that all tithes were paid with money rather than produce. There are over a thousand tithe maps and are the most detailed maps of their period.



If you have an interesting anecdote or photo of times past - we would definitely like to hear from you.

Streetlights - North Farm Mews

Perseverance has eventually paid off! With the help of our County Councillor Wendy Pattison, we met on-site with Northumberland's Street Lighting Manager together with a Manager from Highways Development Management. It was a productive discussion with a very positive outcome. The changes discussed should be a major improvement for everyone affected.

All lighting levels will be reduced on the road and in the Mews - this time done to 1130 lumen output LED lanterns which will dim to 565 lumens at midnight. This level is just below the Dark Sky recommendation of 600 lumens. Importantly also, the height of the three 'still new' 6m lighting columns will be reduced down to 5m and the two columns in the cul-de-sac itself will be fitted with a Part-Night Photo-Electric Cell, which switches the light off at midnight. Hopefully everyone will 'see' the benefit. Even better - this work is planned to be completed sometime in the week commencing 2 December.

Stephen Baggott

Rock Farming Update

Pharoah's dream in the Book of Genesis of seven fat cows emerging from the Nile, followed by seven lean cows, is as apt today as in Biblical times when it comes to agriculture. A wet winter, followed by a seemingly wetter spring and extremely drab early summer meant that this year's crops barely saw the sun. As a result, grains were husks of their normal selves and yields were down by some 30% on average. On the positive side, next year's crops have all been drilled successfully and hopefully the next nine months will present better growing conditions.

The Sustainable Farm Incentive that saw electric purple crops of phacelia in some fields expires in November this year and we await to see what further options there are for environmental schemes to promote biodiversity on the farm.

This autumn's so far milder weather has meant the return of one of the perennial problems of farm life: rats that burrow their way through fields and eat the nascent crops. Our resident Rock 'rat splatter' has gone some way to confronting this rodent menace in his nightly patrols.

Full fibre arrives!

Ultrafast full fibre broadband has at last arrived! Over recent weeks we've seen a lot of activity and many installations. And it's great that it's an Alnwick-based business - whose employees work and live in Northumberland - which is bringing full fibre broadband to our rural parish.

Their physical activity has been highly visible - but what is not so obvious is what Alncom are doing for our community. Alncom pride themselves on being community focused and it's refreshing to see a business living up to their values. They are, or will soon be, providing full fibre internet facilities - free of charge - to Rennington Village Hall, St Philip & St James Church, Rock and All Saints, Rennington. Thank you.

Rock Cricket Club Awards

Rock Cricket Club marked the end of another successful season with both Junior and Senior awards ceremonies in Rennington Village Hall in October.

The usual prizes were awarded to those who excelled in their respective categories, from under 9s who played in several festivals over the summer, all the way through to the men's and ladies' senior teams. Both events were very well attended by players, friends, families and supporters, and superb catering was provided at the senior awards by Company B from Longhoughton. Paul Roberts was on hand afterwards to provide the post-supper entertainment.

Garden Talk

Plant Roses for Bees and Birds

Winter is not usually the time of year we gardeners think of roses. However, it is the perfect time to plant new bare root roses for next year. Why not try some of the roses that are better for wildlife? These are usually the simple single flower shape that allows bees to feed easily and they produce great hips for the birds. I have been surprised how well they have grown in my Rennington garden.

There are lots of varieties in all colours from the ramblers like "Kiftesgate" and "Sir Cedric Morris" which only flower once and "Rosa Rugosa" which are tough, good for hedges and have very large hips.

There are also many less rampant roses and two favourites of mine are the white "Kew Rose" and the yellow "Tottering by Gently". They have multiple flowers on each stem and make a nice bush about 4ft tall. If you deadhead they repeat flower all season, still flowering until the frosts. Planting bare root roses is cheaper than potted roses and the advantage is that they settle in the ground - and you don't need to worry about lots of watering.

Celia Watson

LICENSING ACT 2003
APPLICATION FOR A VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT **Rennington Village Hall Committee** has submitted an application to vary the Premises Licence in respect of:

Rennington Village Hall, Rennington Village, Northumberland, NE66 3RR

A record of the application may be inspected at the offices of Northumberland County Council at:

Licensing Department, Business Compliance & Public Safety Unit, Public Protection Service West Hartford Business Park, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 3JP

Or online at:
https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Business/Licences/Alcohol-entertainment.aspx

THE PROPOSED VARIATION IS:

Add Supply of Alcohol 10:00 to 23:30 Mon-Thur and 10:00 to 23:45 Fri-Sun
Add Films 09:00 to 23:00 Mon-Thur and 09:00 to 23:30 Fri-Sun

Licensing Department, Business Compliance & Public Safety Unit, Public Protection Service, West Hartford Business Park, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 3JP

Not later than: **22nd December 2024**

Dated this: **25th November 2024**

NOTE: It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence, will apply.

Mazza's March

The Vickers Family would like to thank everyone who supported Mazza's March.

Pip, Sally, Rachael & Tom walked 80 miles from Rennington to Peebles - Mazza's two favourite places. It was then followed by a celebratory dinner with family and friends at the Peebles Hydro. Fundraising efforts have raised over £40,000 in sponsorship, donations and an auction. All proceeds go to HospiceCare North Northumberland - the local charity which helped care for Marilyn at home.

Stop Press... New Website

The Parish Council is developing a new website which will help improve communications - making it easier for you to navigate, raise issues or voice an opinion as well as obtaining relevant up-to-date information.

Whats On

29 November 7pm	Christmas Bingo, RVH
6 December 8pm	Quiz in support of local charities, Horseshoes (food service until 7pm)
7 December 6.45pm	Fools Gold Christmas Show with Christmas Tree Lights Switch-On, RVH
8 December 5pm	Rock Christmas Tree Lights Switch-On
17 December 2pm	Carol singing at The Grange, Rennington
22 December 4pm	A Christmas Celebration Service, St Philip & St James Rock
24 December 4pm	A Christingle Service with Carols, All Saints Rennington

Next Issue
Spring 25; please submit content no later than 3 March 25
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