



## LESBURY PARISH COUNCIL

### NEWSLETTER

(Issue 52 - Feb 2017)

The Parish web site is [www.lesbury-pc.org.uk](http://www.lesbury-pc.org.uk)

#### *Extract from Issue dated Sept 2016 . . . .*

**Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)**- At the moment Lesbury Parish does not have a Neighbourhood Development Plan (although it developed a Parish Plan in 2009) and so is has little input into the County Core Strategy and in particular as to where we might want to see future building work taking place in the Parish. Councillors Bradshaw and Cossins are carrying out some discussions with NCC representatives and looking at NDP's developed by other areas to help the PC decide the best way forwards. We would intend to capitalise on our experiences with the Parish Plan which, unfortunately, has no legal standing.

#### *Extract from Issue dated Feb 2017 . . . .*

**Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)** – In the last edition of the Newsletter we enclosed a questionnaire to be able to collect your thoughts on how the parish should develop with a view to putting together a NDP. The rationale was explained as follows; “Previously we made a Parish Plan which, unfortunately, has no legal standing so your Parish Councillors have been considering the feasibility of adopting a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for Lesbury Parish (Lesbury, Hipsburn and Bilton.) An NDP is a legal document and must be taken into consideration by the government at local and national level whenever development is being considered for an area. Without an NDP residents will have little influence over developments in the area.”

At the last Parish Council meeting it was reported that 24 responses had been received to the questionnaire (24 out of 400+ questionnaires) which may suggest that residents have little interest in how the Parish is developed. The majority of responses were along the lines of maintaining the status quo but with modernisation and improvement of the infrastructure. Letters in the Telegraph recently (including one regarding the County Hall site in Morpeth) raised concerns regarding County Councils ignoring NDPs. In defence Councillor Cairns advised that NDPs are used to defend smaller scale developments not huge strategic planning as on the County Hall site. Both our County Councillors are urging the PC to progress with plans to develop an NDP.

It was proposed to begin the process of developing an NDP by setting up a working party comprising five Parish Councillors plus three volunteers from the parish. The favoured idea is to use the existing Parish Plan as a basis for environmental, descriptions and detail and to keep the NDP to a remit of 3 objectives: a) identifying areas for small scale development; b) identifying areas to be ring-fenced for green space with public access; c) identifying ways to preserve and improve the existing infrastructure (Post Office, shop, pub, village hall, amenities, etc.)

The PC voted on whether to pursue further ideas for a NDP. Eight Councillors voted in favour with one against. It was agreed that the working party should meet to determine the next steps and then make recommendations to the PC. In the future it will be necessary to have a public meeting in the village hall once the working group has determined the parameters for the Parish NDP. Community Action Northumberland is able to offer a Housing Needs Assessment which could be a good starting point on which to base our NDP. **If you would like to get involved please contact the Parish Clerk.**