



# Broomhaugh & Riding Neighbourhood Plan

## Local plans

In 2012, the Localism Act 2011 introduced new powers to allow local communities to shape local development by preparing a neighbourhood plan. Neighbourhood plans contribute to the statutory development plan for Northumberland and are used by the County Council to help decide whether to approve or refuse planning applications.

The Broomhaugh and Riding Neighbourhood Plan will set out locally specific planning policies which will provide clear guidance describing the type of development that will be acceptable in the Parish. This means the residents will have a greater say in how the village develops as a sustainable community. The plan can include 'Community Actions', proposals that will be taken forward by the Parish Council to address issues of concern but which are not planning issues.

## The process so far

The Parish Council took a decision last year to develop a neighbourhood plan. The PC then undertook a survey of the residents early in 2021 which resulted in a very positive response.

We now have some funding from the government to employ specialist advisers, but much of the hard work in developing a plan is being undertaken by volunteers. We have set up six groups, to explore and make suggestions for each of the six topic areas, and a steering group chaired by Matt Warner.

Those volunteers have been working hard to develop the ideas and suggestions that are presented here today but we are conscious that it is a small group. We very much hope that you will all share your ideas and feedback and that will help us to move towards a much improved draft.

## Our starting point

People in the village tend to stay in the village, some for over 50 years. However, this has resulted in an aging population and there is a desire to achieve a more balanced demographic.

Residents of the Parish of Broomhaugh and Riding want to see development that expresses their aspirations and reflects what is special and important about the Parish.

The overwhelming reason people like Riding Mill is the easy access to surrounding countryside, the green spaces, the rural atmosphere and the good transport links.

Riding Mill has a strong sense of community and this is at the heart of our strategy. It is surrounded by wonderful green belt on all sides, which has ensured that the village has been protected from urban sprawl and helped to maintain its identity and separation from other settlements, as well as providing important habitat for wildlife. We thus want to preserve the character of the village, whilst addressing concerns evident since the 2002 plan. There was, and still is, for example, a desire to provide some sort of affordable housing. These thoughts are reflected in our vision for the next 15 years.

## A vision for the village

**Making the most of our heritage, connectivity and rural environment, we aspire to become a more balanced, diverse and sustainable community.**

To support our vision, we set out below six strategic objectives (each of which is explained in more detail in the accompanying posters)

### Housing

To ensure a balanced provision of housing, reflecting Riding Mill's demographic, all of which meets the Riding Mill design code and targets zero carbon

### Natural environment

To achieve an environment which is optimal for the health of people, flora and fauna, is in keeping with the dark skies initiative and optimises aesthetics, whilst maintaining a safe and hospitable environment

### Transport & streetscape

To become a more attractive place to live and visit through better connections to different modes of public transport and easier to navigate as a pedestrian and cyclist with improved wayfinding

### Climate change & energy

To become a 'zero carbon' village by 2035

### Health & wellbeing

To provide a lovely and friendly environment in which to live, providing residents of all ages with the opportunity to engage in a wide range of leisure and recreational activities for the benefit of their health and well-being

### Local economy

To recognise the growth in home working and to ensure that local services meet the requirements of those choosing to spend more time working from home

## We want your feedback

We want to hear from you. Nothing has been agreed though there are several teams of volunteers all working on aspects of the proposed neighbourhood plan. Do you agree with the ideas so far? What more would you like to see? Please e-mail [ridingmillclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ridingmillclerk@gmail.com) or use the 'contact us' form on the website.