



SEATON SLUICE VILLAGE PLAN

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ABOUT THIS PLAN

In January 2015, Seaton Valley Council commissioned Your Back Yard to consult local people and organisations in order to draw up village plans for each of the villages in Seaton Valley, plus a 'valley-wide' plan. During March to May 2015, Your Back Yard consulted local people through a survey of residents and public meetings in each village, plus discussions with organisations working in the area, engagement with the local schools, and detailed conversations with Seaton Valley Council.

Village plans have been drawn up based on the views expressed in this consultation: this is the village plan for Seaton Sluice, which reflects feedback from local people and organisations that work in the village. It is not a legal document, but sets out some practical steps that can be taken to improve the village. People from the Seaton Sluice community can lead on some of them, while others will need to be led by Seaton Valley Council, working with local people. It is intended that the Plan can be used by local people and organisations to help in their planning and seeking support or funding for their activities.

The results of the consultation for Seaton Sluice and the results from Seaton Valley as a whole, together with the Valley Wide Plan are available on request from Seaton Valley Council.

ABOUT SEATON SLUICE

Seaton Sluice is a large village on the coast. It includes the village of Old Hartley, still recognised by some local people as a separate village. The population is around 3,000 people. The village has an attractive setting at the mouth of Seaton Burn, with a historic harbour, a fine sandy beach and dunes, and the open space of Holywell Dene nearby. It is also the closest village to Seaton Delaval Hall, a National Trust property. As a result, Seaton Sluice is both an attractive residential area, and a popular visitor destination.

Village facilities include two schools (Seaton Sluice First School and Seaton Sluice Middle School), a community centre and library, post office, several shops, cafes, pubs and social clubs, and two churches. The village has significant industrial heritage, linked to the Delaval family, as highlighted by the Local History Society.



LOCAL PEOPLE'S PRIORITY ISSUES

Overall, residents were very happy with Seaton Sluice, and more satisfied than other Seaton Valley residents. The main issues identified through consultation were:

THE IMPACT OF VISITORS

Seaton Sluice is rightly seen as an attractive destination for visitors. Many residents are proud of this, and want to attract more visitors. However, many other residents are concerned about the impact of visitors on the village, in terms of litter, dog waste, parking, noise and other disturbance. Several residents felt that the village needed more and better shops, which would probably need more visitors to sustain them. Attracting more visitors could also increase the number of local jobs.

Residents' responses were split between those who saw visitors as a problem for the village and wanted to reduce the impact of visitors, and those who wanted to make more of the 'assets' of Seaton Sluice as an attractive place for visitors as well as residents. As many residents are already concerned about the impact of the current level of visitors, any actions to increase the number of visitors would need to be underpinned by a plan to better manage visitors' impacts on parking, litter, dog mess, noise and other issues.

THE LOOK AND FEEL OF THE VILLAGE

Many of the survey comments from residents reflected their pride in the appearance of Seaton Sluice, and suggested further improvements that could be made through planting, placing benches and other small-scale measures. Seaton Sluice and Old Hartley Residents Association (SS&OHRA) has developed a programme of planting, benches, notice boards and other measures to improve the look and feel of the village. These measures could make an already attractive village more attractive.

THE IMPACT OF TRAFFIC AND SPEEDING ON THE MAIN ROUTES

Seaton Sluice is on a through route between Blyth and Whitley Bay, along the A193 Links Road/Beresford Road and also has passing traffic generated by Seaton Delaval Hall along the A190 Fountain Head Bank. Many residents highlighted traffic and particularly the speed of traffic as an issue, and this scored as the third highest problem overall in the survey of residents. While several comments were about very specific locations, most concerns focused on the main routes through the village. Residents suggested additional crossing points.

DOG FOULING AND LITTER

Generally, residents were very happy with the environment of Seaton Sluice. However, Dog fouling was identified as the most significant problem in the village, followed by litter. These were identified by many residents as being significant issues, and were associated by many people as arising largely from the visitors to the area. These were the only problems in which Seaton Sluice scored a higher level of problem than the average for Seaton Valley. Improving these issues were the most commonly cited improvements that residents wanted to see.



ACTION PLAN

This section of the Village Plan sets out specific actions that could be taken forward in Seaton Sluice to address the priority issues that were identified by local residents.

People in each of the villages of Seaton Valley identified similar issues around the local environment such as dog fouling and litter as priorities. Actions to address these issues are therefore dealt with across all of Seaton Valley through the Valley-wide plan, and are not described in this Plan. The valley-wide approach to improving environmental management will address the specific issues identified in Seaton Sluice.

Action 1: Amenity Improvement Scheme

What is the aim? To continue and strengthen joint working between local residents and Seaton Valley Council in implementing a collaborative programme of planting and other actions to improve the look and feel of Seaton Sluice

How could it be achieved? Seaton Sluice and Old Hartley Residents Association have drawn up a programme of measures to improve the village. They can take forward most of the measures in the programme themselves, with voluntary support from local residents. Seaton Valley Council and Northumberland Council can support this work with small grants where available, and in-kind support, help and advice. Clear communication between the Residents Association and Seaton Valley Council will be essential to ensure that both parties understand and agree what is happening.

Potential Partners Northumberland County Council, Seaton Valley Council

Next Steps **Seaton Valley Council and Seaton Sluice & Old Hartley Residents Association** to agree how they will work together to implement the programme.

Action 2: Develop a 'visitor management plan' for the village

What is the aim? To reduce the negative impacts of visitors on the village, and allow for growth in visitor numbers

How could it be achieved? Seek support from Visit Northumberland and the County Council to develop a 'visitor management plan' that would set out an agreed approach to issues such as parking provision and enforcement, litter and dog waste, heritage and orientation signage and facilities.

Potential Partners Visit Northumberland, Seaton Delaval Hall/National Trust, Northumberland County Council, Seaton Sluice and Old Hartley Local History Society

Next Steps **Seaton Valley Council** to arrange a meeting with potential partners to gather support for this action.

Action 3: Create a pedestrian crossing on the south of Beresford Road

What is the aim? To install an additional pedestrian crossing point at the southern end of Beresford Road.

How could it be achieved? This crossing is already part of the NCC local transport plan and is supported by the County Councillor through the members' schemes programme. Seaton Sluice and Old Hartley Residents Association and Seaton Valley Council could work with the County Council to bring forward the installation of a new crossing.

Potential Partners Northumberland County Council

Next Steps Seaton Valley Council and Seaton Sluice and Old Hartley Residents Association to engage with Northumberland County Council on how quickly this crossing could be installed.

Action 4: Review Speed Management arrangements

What is the aim? To establish whether more could be done to reduce the speed of traffic passing along the main routes through Seaton Sluice.

How could it be achieved? Northumberland County Council's Highways Department would be approached to consider whether speed restriction signs could be added or moved to reduce speeds, or additional speed activated signs could be installed to help raise drivers' awareness of their speed.

Potential Partners Northumberland County Council

Next Steps **Seaton Valley Council** to request a review of speed management arrangements in the village by Northumberland County Council

While not all of these can be done immediately, many of them can be carried out by local residents, and Seaton Valley Council can support residents in doing so.



THE VALLEY WIDE PLAN

The following projects have been identified as priorities for action across the whole of Seaton Valley:

1. Developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Seaton Valley
2. Securing local stations on the Ashington-Tyne-Blyth train line
3. Seaton Valley Gateways
4. Visit Seaton Valley
5. Investigating the potential for a destination facility for young people
6. Neighbourhood Management Forum(s)
7. Environmental Task Force
8. Provide more support to enhance joint working across the valley

Copies of the Valley-wide plan are available from Seaton Valley Council.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Seaton Valley Council will work with local residents and organisations to deliver each of the actions listed in this Plan. Within one year, they will hold a public review of progress against the Action Plan, as part of a public Council meeting in Seaton Sluice. This meeting will consider any changes or additions that need to be made to this Action Plan.

MAP HIGHLIGHTING POTENTIAL ACTION AREAS

Showing the locations of items mentioned in the Village Plan



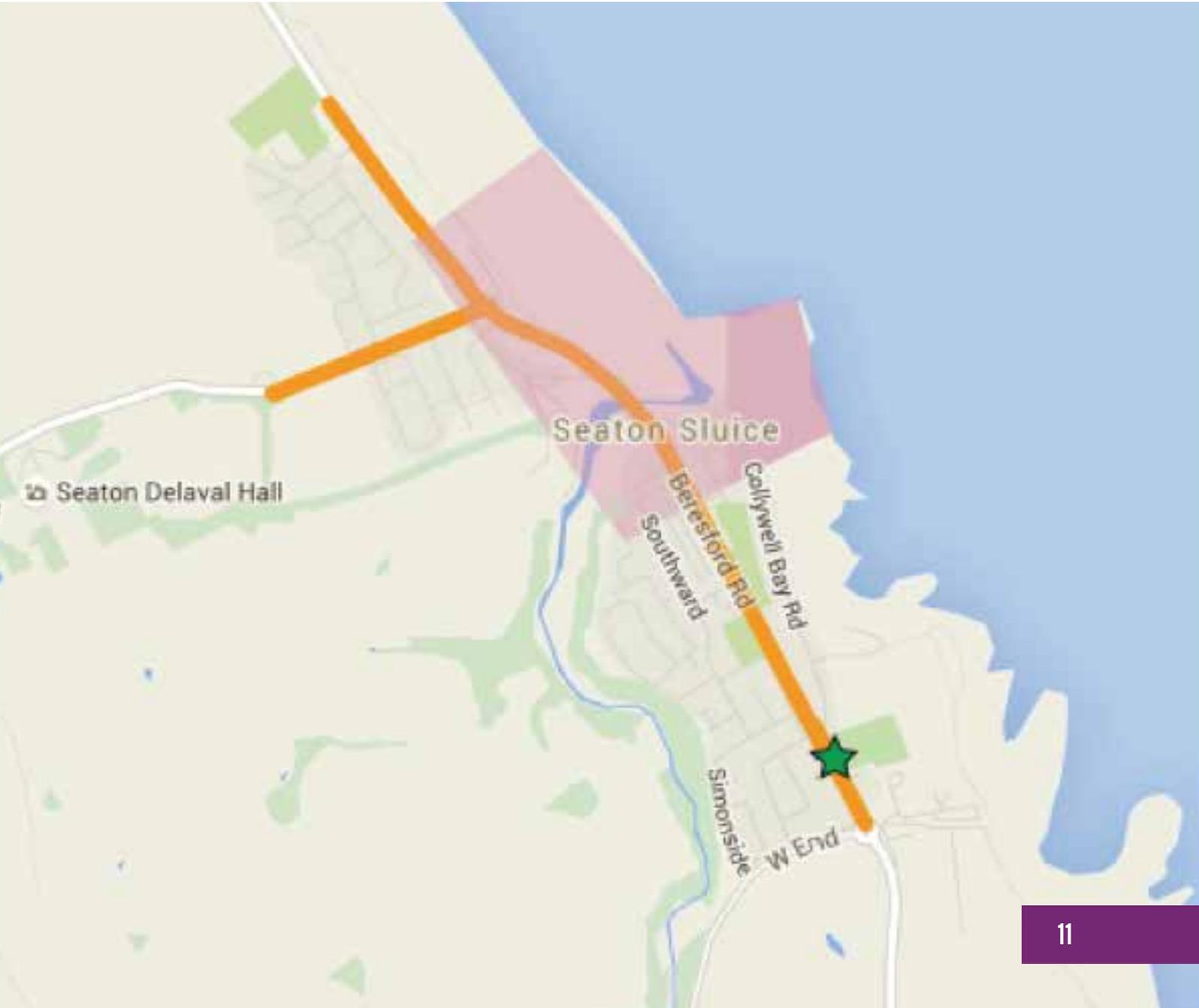
Review of Speed Management



Area for Visitor Management Plan



Possible Road Crossing



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