

# SEGHILL VILLAGE PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2015

# CONTENTS

About This Plan	Page 3
About Seghill	Page 4
Local People's Priority Issues	Page 5
Children's Play Facilities	Page 5
Anti-social Behaviour	Page 5
Traffic Management	Page 6
Shop Fronts	Page 6
State of the environment	Page 6
Action Plan	Page 7
The Valley-wide Plan	Page 10
What Happens Next?	Page 10
Map Highlighting Potential Action Areas	Page 11

# 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 Seghill, 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 Seghill 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 Seghill and the results from Seaton Valley as a whole, together with the Valley Wide Plan are available on request from Seaton Valley Council.

# ABOUT SEGHILL

Seghill lies on the western edge of Seaton Valley, close to the A189 and A19 trunk roads and within easy reach of the northern edge of Tyneside. It is a former mining village, with a relatively large proportion of former mining and other social housing. However, it also contains some newer developments of private housing, and a few older properties. The population is around 3,000.

Village facilities include two schools (Seghill First School and Atkinson House School), a community centre, post office, several shops and take aways, a pub, rugby club and other social clubs, and two churches.



# LOCAL PEOPLE'S PRIORITY ISSUES

Overall, while residents were happy with Seghill, it was the village with the lowest level of satisfaction and the highest level of perceived problems of the five villages in Seaton Valley. The main issues identified through consultation were:

## CHILDREN'S PLAY FACILITIES

This issue was one of the most prominent in the comments of residents and other stakeholders. Satisfaction with children's play areas scored much lower than other parts of Seaton Valley.

At present, Seghill has two small play areas, one at the Crescent and one at the eastern edge of the village next to Burnlea Gardens. Both are in need of improving/updating. There is no large, central facility for children's outdoor play. The play area at the Crescent was seen as causing problems with young people climbing on roofs. The Welfare Grounds has tennis courts, a Multi-Use Games Area, bowling green and rugby pitches, but is seen by many as lacking facilities for other users, especially children's play.

Plans have been developed for improvements to the Welfare Grounds to address this issue that has already been identified by Seaton Valley and Northumberland County Councils.

## ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Anti-social behaviour, crime, litter and fly tipping were all seen as much more significant problems in Seghill than the average for Seaton Valley as a whole. In some parts of Seghill, at some times, there are problems of anti-social behaviour including noise, groups of young people congregating, litter, fly-tipping and vandalism. This is not widespread, with many residents finding the village quiet, safe and peaceful. However, it is an issue that affects the quality of life of some residents. Many people attributed this either to young people not having enough to do, with several residents commenting on young people causing trouble due to a lack of activities or facilities for them. Other residents commented that problems were caused by particular households, and referred to 'inappropriate' housing allocations. Several also commented on the lack of a response to trouble by the police or other authorities.

## TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Traffic was seen as a more significant issue in Seghill than for the Valley as a whole and the second most significant problem for residents. The main road through Seghill receives heavy traffic, much of it through traffic. The volume of traffic impacts on the village. As the road is quite straight and obstacle free, speeds can be high.

## SHOP FRONTS

While some residents were happy with the local shopping offer in Seghill, others felt that there were too few shops, or that the shop fronts were unattractive. Residents' satisfaction with the quality and variety of local shops was slightly below the Seaton Valley average.

## STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Most residents are happy with the environment of Seghill. However, litter, fly tipping, dog fouling and vandalism were identified by some as a problem. Dog fouling was identified as the most significant problem in the village, and several comments were made about litter and fly tipping, and in some locations, vandalism. The footpaths around the village were also mentioned as needing improved maintenance.



# ACTION PLAN

This section of the Village Plan sets out specific actions that could be taken forward in Seghill 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 Seghill.

## Action 1: New Children's Play Facilities on the Welfare Ground

**What is the aim?** To provide quality play facilities for children on a par with those available in other villages in Seaton Valley.

**How could it be achieved?** Provide a new large play facility on the Welfare Grounds. Seaton Valley Council and Northumberland County Council are developing plans for such a facility, which is clearly a very high priority for residents.

**Potential Partners** Northumberland County Council

**Next Steps** Seaton Valley Council to finalise plans and secure funding for the play facility.

## Action 2: Review the existing play facilities on the Crescent

**What is the aim?** To decide on whether to upgrade or remove the existing play facility at the Crescent.

**How could it be achieved?** Once a new facility is in place on the Welfare Ground, consult residents around the Crescent to determine whether to retain and upgrade the play area on the Crescent, or remove it to reduce the associated problems.

**Potential Partners** Northumberland County Council

**Next Steps** Keep the issues under review until the new facility on the Welfare is in place.

### Action 3: More activities for young people (teenagers)

**What is the aim?** To provide more activities for young people, so reducing issues of anti-social behaviour.

**How could it be achieved?** Seek funding to provide additional youth work sessions at Seghill Community Centre.

**Potential Partners** Northumberland Youth Service

**Next Steps** Seaton Valley Council, Northumberland Youth Service and Seghill Community Centre to meet to discuss the potential to increase provision of youth work sessions.

### Action 4: ASB Management Plan

**What is the aim?** To significantly reduce problems of anti-social behaviour in the village.

**How could it be achieved?** Develop a more active management approach between the police, housing associations and the County Council to identify and address individuals involved in anti-social behaviour. This might include changes to housing allocations policies, more active tenancy enforcement, more active local policing or more use of Community Support Officers.

**Potential Partners** Northumbria Police, Homes for Northumberland, Northumberland County Council

**Next Steps** Seaton Valley Council to invite potential partners to meet to discuss anti-social behaviour problems in Seghill and agree possible approaches to tackle it.

## Action 5: 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 road through Seghill.

**How could it be achieved?** Northumberland County Council's Highways Department would be approached to consider whether speed restriction signs, chicanes, extra traffic controls or traffic islands could be added to reduce speeds, or additional speed activated signs could be installed to help raise drivers' awareness of their speed. Raised pavements at the shops could also help to reduce speeds here, and could enhance the setting for the shops. Additional planters could be introduced to narrow the road, reducing speeds and improving the look of the village.

**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.

## Action 6: Visual Amenity Improvement Scheme

**What is the aim?** To improve the visual appearance of Seghill, increasing the attractiveness of the village.

**How could it be achieved?** A grant scheme could be put in place to co-fund shop-front improvements, alongside a 'design guide' to encourage a degree of consistency amongst shop fronts. Additional improvements to visual amenity could be considered, subject to budgets.

**Potential Partners** Local shops and landlords

**Next Steps** **Seaton Valley Council** to consider whether it can resource a shop front and visual amenity improvement scheme.

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 Seghill. 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



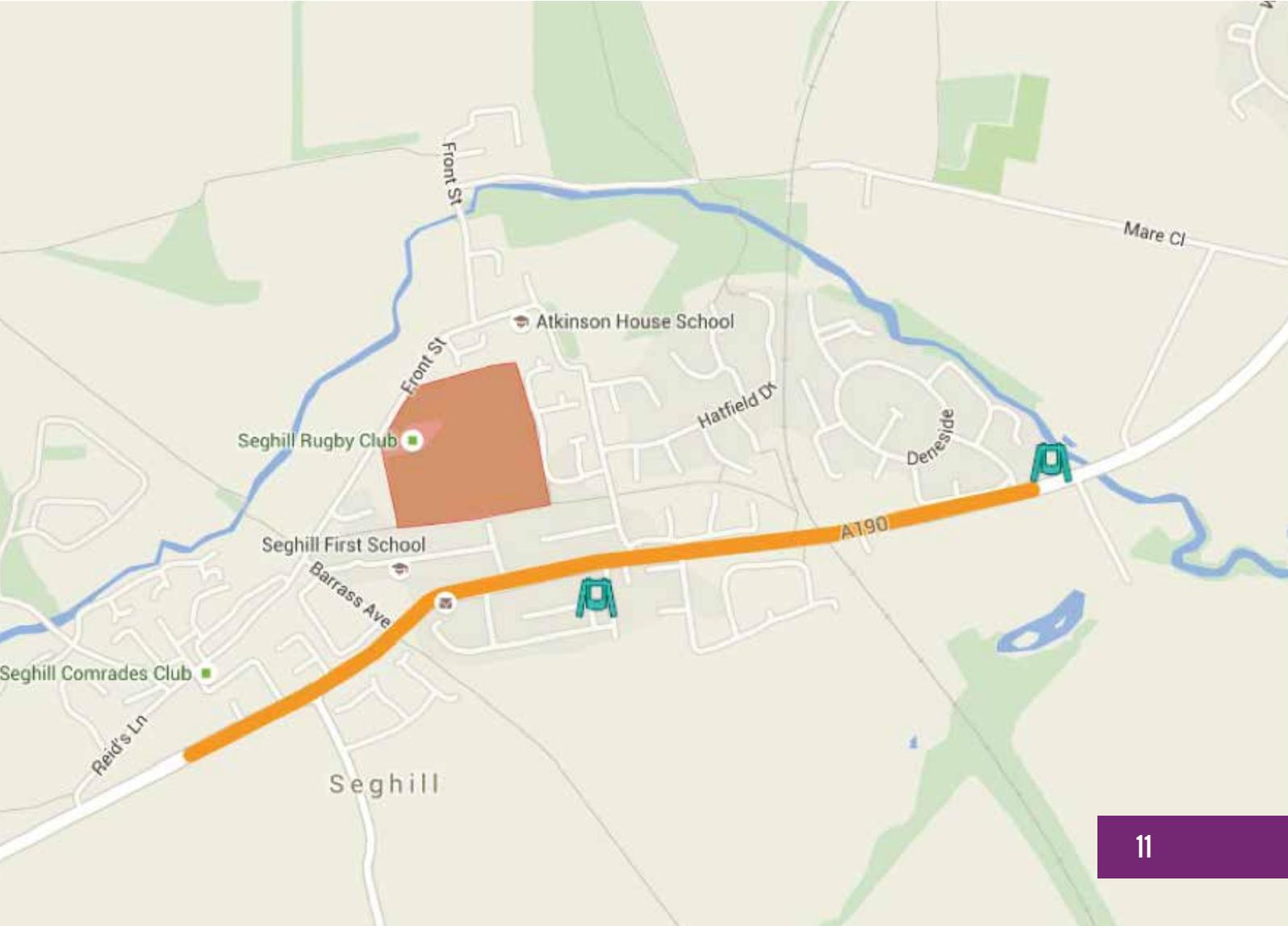
Review of  
Speed Management



Welfare Ground  
(Play Area Site)



Existing  
Play Areas



# GET IN TOUCH

Seaton Valley Community Council  
20-22 Astley Road  
Seaton Delaval  
NE25 0DG

(0191) 237 9870

[www.seatonvalleycommunitycouncil.gov.uk](http://www.seatonvalleycommunitycouncil.gov.uk)

