



CLANTON VISION
A Parish Plan

Cover picture "Glanton Sunrise" by Gail Johnson

FOREWORD

This Parish Plan gives the residents of Glanton the opportunity to promote the distinctive features and characteristics of their parish, particularly those they value. It also sets out guidelines for future development and subsequent change.

We want to protect, preserve and where possible enhance our local environment and community both for current and future generations. This Plan provides a process on which we hope to influence the decisions taken by local and regional government, also authorities and agencies whose responsibilities touch on the environmental and social aspect of our Parish. Additionally it will act as a mechanism for change, proof of opinion and where opportunity presents itself, contribute to funding opportunities.

Like many deep-rural communities, Glanton has experienced its share of change in recent decades. The unanimous view of residents who responded to a questionnaire from the Parish Council in 2006 said, “**Glanton is a great place to live**”. The Church, the village flag with its coat of arms, the annual Village Show and its flower display, the seasonal and traditional farming events that flow with a year in the countryside, help to reinforce a sense of belonging and embody a truly rural community. However, residents are conscious that change may be forced upon them, either through governmental legislation or local/regional initiatives.

The chapters in the Parish Plan were based on consultations with Parish residents including surveys and village events organised by the Parish Plan Steering Group over a twelve-month period 2007-2008.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I am very grateful not only to the authors, but to everybody who has been involved in the Parish Planning process. Can I take this opportunity to say thank you to them all.

Chris Livsey
Chairman
Glanton Parish Plan Steering Group

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INTRODUCTION

THE PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

In March 2003, the Countryside Agency encouraged and made available funding to Parish Councils to produce Parish Plans that reflected the needs and wishes of parish residents relating to change. The government initiative was designed to assist local and regional authorities charged with creating and implementing cross-cutting policy change, in the way communities evolved. Glanton has responded to this with “**Glanton Vision A Parish Plan**”, an informed document that details the aspirations of a parish and a proposed course of action leading to a framework for potential social, environmental and economic development.

As a working document it will sit with the Parish Council where actions will be taken forward when opportunities arise over the five-year period. In addition it can be used to demonstrate a united opinion if unacceptable change is forced upon the Parish.



Glanton Coat of Arms

THE PARISH – PAST

Glanton derives its name from an Old English word meaning ‘*a hill frequented by birds of prey or used as a look-out place*’. From its hill-top position there are fine views over the Vale of Whittingham to the South and the Cheviots foothills to the North. Glanton was an established hamlet by the first half of the 13th century. During this period Robert of Glanton became a knight of the Realm and his crest is to this day still featured on the village’s coat of arms.

Circa 1900



Today Front Street looking East



By kind permission Aln and Breamish Local History Society

Glanton's association with the Presbyterian Church dates back to the 17th century when the freeholders and yeoman farmers of the Parish asserted their independence from the Church of England. They created the foundations of growth that allowed Glanton to become the thriving commercial centre of the Vale of Whittingham by the late 18th century. In 1783, a new Presbyterian church and a village school were built. The school was to exist for nearly 200 years before finally closing for good in 1981.

Circa 1920



Today West Turnpike looking West



By kind permission Aln and Breamish Local History Society

In the 19th century the population grew from 279 in 1801 to an all-time peak of 619 in 1861. This was caused mainly by the success of advanced and innovative farming practices, the provision of services to the parish's larger houses and Glanton's location on the main turnpike and stagecoach route to and from Scotland. However, the coming of the railway in 1887 and the shift in economic and social work patterns contributed towards a fall in population to 509 by the turn of the 20th century.

The Memorial Hall, built to honour those from the locality who fell in the Great War (1914-18), was opened in 1930. However periods in the aftermath of two World Wars were marked by a steady decline in both population and village trade. The 1981 census showed the population had fallen to an all-time low of 183.



Glanton Memorial Hall

Glanton may not be a showpiece village or historically very noteworthy, but it is situated amidst some of the most scenic and rugged countryside in England. It still has several elegant 17th and 18th century houses, most being built in a mainly utilitarian style by local masons from local stone, reflecting the needs of independent-minded and hard working inhabitants. There was never any strict uniformity of design or layout to the village and it is the variety of its buildings that gives Glanton an unplanned feel, which is very much part of its character and perceived charm.

THE PARISH - PRESENT

The village lies half a mile off the A697 and is roughly equidistant from Wooler, Alnwick and Rothbury and 38 miles to the north of Newcastle upon Tyne. The population in 2001 was 222. The village no longer has a school; children have to travel either to Whittingham (primary school), Wooler (Middle School) or Alnwick (High School). The nearest care facilities are 9 miles away. Household Energy supplies to Glanton are electricity, oil, wood and bottled gas. There is no gas pipeline to the village; the nearest petrol station is at Powburn, a mile and a half away.



Glanton from the air

Thirty years ago Glanton supported 5 shops. Today, a solitary general store provides a postal service from 9am to 12.30pm and basic provisions from 8am to 1pm in addition to public access to the Internet. There is still a Presbyterian Church, Memorial Hall and a Public House (The Queen's Head). Local food suppliers such as a butcher, baker and grocer make mobile visits to the village throughout the working week.

The church has its own hall, which supports a wide range of church related activities; there are no outdoor sports facilities at present. Buses run daily to Alnwick and Wooler with a once-a-week service to Newcastle. The Pennine Cycle Route (Sustrans Route 68) passes through the village.

Glanton has not been subjected to large housing developments or clearance of old building complexes. It continues to be a working village, trying to adapt to a fast and complex changing world. Much of the local economy is still derived from agriculture (there are four farms within the parish boundaries) and service provision industries. There is a growing proportion of residents that have varied skill sets and expertise, which fortunately enable them to work from home as a result of improved communication links over recent years.

GLANTON – A VILLAGE CHRONICLE

This snapshot of Glanton life was commissioned and published by the Parish Council to mark and celebrate the recent millennium (2000). It is a detailed and comprehensive survey of the village, covering topics such as its history, geology, archaeology, agriculture, flora and fauna, economy and inhabitants. Much of its content has been used in the formulation of this Plan.

BACKGROUND TO THE VILLAGE SURVEY

The Parish Council started the process of consultation with the community in December 2006. Since the formation of the Parish Plan Steering Group in February 2007, they have been working in partnership with the Council to establish an accurate level of information from which to work, this has been achieved via a number of parish surveys in conjunction with public events. The aim of this work was to canvass opinion from as many residents as possible in relation to what they liked about the present village and what they wanted to see changed; the steering group then turned these aspirations into actions. The information gathering process was far reaching and included the views of businesses and interest groups such as local history and the Women's Institute. Members of the Steering Group carried out detailed surveys under the following headings:

- Access and Leisure
- Access to Services
- The Built Environment
- The Local Economy
- The Natural Environment
- Social and Community

The results of these surveys form the core of the Parish Plan. A summary Plan will be issued to every household in the Parish.

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ACCESS & LEISURE

Introduction

As a small community, some distance from the nearest town, the people of Glanton parish are dependent on what is available on their doorstep for their leisure time activities unless they have the transport and the time to use it to access facilities in Alnwick or other nearby towns and to benefit from the beautiful countryside in which the parish is located.

Leisure activities may be those of a social nature or more active ones, whether normally classed as sport or recreation. The choice that members of the community make depends on their age group and the amount of leisure time they have available, as well as their personal preference.

The government is concerned that the population at large should be taking more exercise in order to improve its health and reduce the risk of obesity. This is especially the case for children. This makes some of the conclusions reached in this chapter to be of particular importance.

The need for a children's playground

The current situation

The lack of a children's playground was highlighted in the consultations, both by families with young children and by others. There has been a long-standing need expressed for a safe, well-equipped play area for young children close to the centre of the village. Older children, kicking a football about on the wide main street at quiet times of the week disturbed some residents, so there is a need for some play space for them too.

This is not the first time this issue has been raised. The parish council has made a number of attempts in the past to find a suitable area of land on which to create a play area but without success.

Table 1. **Number of children in the parish (census 2001)**

4 years & under	10	
5 – 15 years	26	
Total	36	16% of the parish population

Some of the older ones will now be away at college or working in their first jobs, but others will have replaced them.

The recent upgrading of the play area in Powburn, a mile-and-a half away, has shown what fun can be had from simple, solid, well designed play equipment but transport is needed to take advantage of it. There is also a football pitch there.

Access to the countryside for walking, cycling and horse riding

The current situation

These activities are enjoyed by many in Glanton, but the parish is not well served by the public rights of way network, with only four public footpaths and no public bridleways recorded on the definitive map. Their total distance is no more than 2.6 kilometres.

The public footpaths cross the surrounding farmland and link Glanton to neighbouring villages and farms. Only one of these starts within the village itself, the others require a walk along roads used by vehicles to get to their start point.

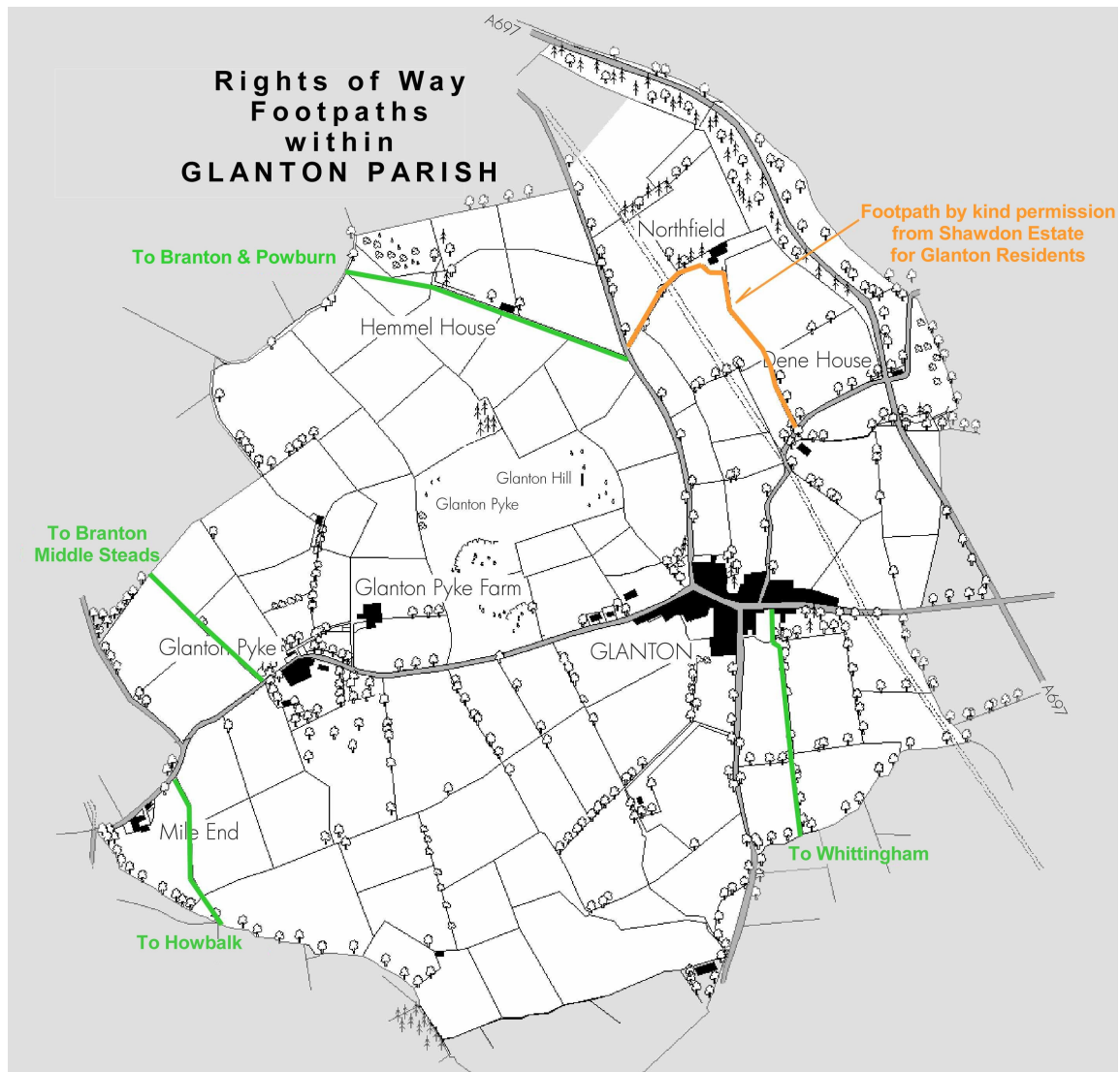
There is one permissive footpath, which follows field headlands and passes close to Glanton Northfield. It links Playwell Lane to the Powburn Road. This came into being in 2002 as a result of an agreement between Glanton Parish Council and the then owners and occupiers of the land. This agreement was put in place specifically for the enjoyment of the residents of Glanton parish. Due to recent changes at the farm, the parish council is negotiating a new agreement.

During the consultation it became clear that this historic network does not meet the current needs of the people of Glanton. Not only are the existing paths difficult to use due to the many stiles and the long grass in the summer, but the lack of circular routes was highlighted as reducing their value. The location of the paths was not always well known.

Walking is a much-enjoyed activity, particularly by the many dog owners (over 40 dogs recorded) but it is frequently restricted to short 'there and back' walks along the quieter roads.

The lack of off-road cycling and horse riding routes was also noted during the consultation.

Fig 1. Map showing the footpaths of Glanton Parish



The condition of the public footpaths

A recent survey shows that the four public footpaths, although all signed at the roadside, are not that attractive to use. They are all passable but they are not always easy to follow on the ground. However, there is one footpath, which is in very poor condition where it crosses into a neighbouring parish. The stiles, footbridges and some of the gates can present an obstacle to those with mobility issues and can be a problem for those walking with dogs.

The local highway authority, Northumberland County Council, is responsible for maintaining the surface of a Public Right of Way, including cutting back vegetation growth, the maintenance of bridges, removal of obstructions and the improvement of drainage. The maintenance of structures such as gates and stiles is the responsibility of the landowner or tenant (where responsibility is devolved) but the council will often support any work needed if the

improvements will result in the use of the paths by a larger proportion of the public, particularly those with mobility problems.

Table 2. **Details of the public footpaths of Glanton parish**

Definitive Map number	Start point	Destination beyond Glanton parish	Length in Glanton parish	Structures (gates, stiles & bridges)
FP 116/001	On the Powburn Road	Branton & Powburn	895.9 metres	4 stiles 2 gates 1 bridge
FP 116/002	West of Glanton Pyke	Branton Middlesteads	468.8 metres	5 stiles 1 gate
FP 116/003	East of Mile End	Howbalk	496.8 metres	1 stile 2 gates 1 bridge
FP 116/004	East of the bus stop	Whittingham	735.5 metres	3 stiles 2 gates 1 bridge

Facilities for competitive sport

The current situation

There are no facilities for outdoor sport within the parish. The one tennis court was a private one. It has been allowed to fall into disrepair but its foundations are still there.

However there is a wide range of purpose-built facilities in the surrounding area. Some of these are provided by the local authority, like the swimming pools at Alnwick and Rothbury and others are part of a private enterprise, like the gym at Branton, which is associated with the holiday cottages complex.

Table 3. **Purpose-built sporting facilities to be found in the area around Glanton:**

Sport	Nearest location	Return distance from Glanton
Football	Powburn	3 miles
Cricket	Eglingham	20 miles
Rugby	Alnwick	18 miles
Tennis	Wooler, Rothbury	20 miles
Squash	Alnwick (private)	18 miles
Golf	Rothbury	20 miles
Athletics	Alnwick (indoor)	18 miles
Equestrian	Titlington	7 miles
Swimming	Alnwick, Rothbury	20 miles
	Branton (private)	5 miles
Gymnasium	Alnwick	18 miles
	Branton (private)	5 miles
Martial arts	Alnwick	18 miles
Motor sport	Berwick	46 miles
Shooting	Bywell, nr Felton	30 miles
Archery	Morpeth	38 miles
Running clubs	Wooler, Alnwick	20 miles

Triathlon	Alnwick	18 miles
Kayaking	Amble	34 miles

Gardening

The current situation

One of Britain's most popular leisure pastimes, gardening, is widely enjoyed by the residents of Glanton parish judging by the high quality of maintenance that can be observed. 55 (49%) of the respondents to the consultation have a garden or allotment. In addition there are public flowerbeds around the flagpole and several stone troughs, helpful local residents' look after them.

Besides the benefits of producing one's own vegetables, there is the challenge of the flower and vegetable section of the local shows to motivate keen gardeners.

Because many gardens in Glanton are small, there is seldom room for bonfires or large compost heaps. Getting rid of prunings, grass cuttings and weeds can be a problem in spite of the service offered by Alnwick District Council. At present, these are often disposed of at the recycling site at Wooler, involving a 20 mile round trip.

Indoor leisure activities

The current situation

Within the village there are two halls where a range of leisure activities take place throughout the year. The Glanton Memorial Hall is a public building managed by a voluntary committee made up of local residents. It has been recently redecorated and renovated and now provides disabled access. The Church Hall, which is smaller, belongs to the United Reformed Church.

The Church Hall is used for bowls and Pilots (activities for young children).

The Memorial Hall offers space for a wide range of activities from meetings of the Women's Institute and other organisations to plays and pantomimes put on by outside companies and more energetic activities like table tennis. But it is still underused and so it offers considerable scope for a wider range of interests from local clubs and from private individuals wanting a good large room for something like a special birthday party.

The village pub, The Queens Head, has also been recently renovated after it changed ownership in 2006. It provides the home for the Leek Club and has a darts and a pool team as well as congenial surroundings for a quiet drink and a chat. Quiz evenings are another popular past time that take place there.

Many residents drive to neighbouring towns and villages to enjoy educational and leisure activities or to take part in the meetings of clubs or organisations they belong to.

Table 4. **Purpose-built facilities for educational and leisure activities in the area around Glanton:**

Leisure activity	Nearest location	Return distance from Glanton
Cinema	Alnwick	18 miles
Theatre	Alnwick	18 miles
Disco	Alnwick	18 miles
Pilates	Wooler	20 miles
Tai chi	Alnwick	18 miles
Exercise classes	Bolton	5 miles
Adult day/evening classes	Wooler, Rothbury, Alnwick	20 miles
Reading group	Alnwick	18 miles

In addition the following **clubs** meet in the village or nearby:

Glanton WI
 Glanton Bowls Club
 Queen's Head Leek Club
 Queen's Head Darts & Pool teams
 Kingfishers Youth Group, Glanton
 Pilots Youth Group, Glanton
 Cheviot Valleys Flower Club, Powburn
 1st Whittingham BP Scout Group
 Aln & Breamish Local History Society
 Glanton URC Church
 St Bartholomew's C of E Church, Whittingham
 St Mary's RC Church, Whittingham
 Glanton First Responders
 Village Show Committee, Glanton
 Village Hall Committee, Glanton

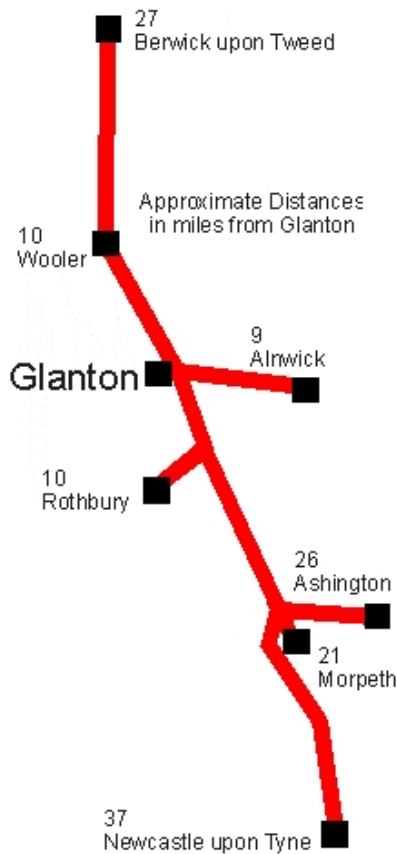
Conclusion

Although many of the residents of Glanton can be seen to be fully involved with leisure activities within the parish or the wider neighbourhood, it has become clear from the consultation that there is a need for more opportunities within the village itself. A play area for young children and more activities in the Memorial Hall would bring greater opportunities for those least able to get in a car and drive out of the village to enjoy their leisure hours.

The improvement of the rights of way network would bring the greatest opportunity for more people of all ages to take exercise in safe and pleasant surroundings.

ACCESS TO LOCAL SERVICES

Introduction to this section



Access to local services is a major concern for many residents in rural communities across the United Kingdom. Glanton reflects the national rural trend for declining local services and facilities. There is a heavy reliance on private car transport to access employment, education, goods and services located in market towns and further afield. The Northumberland Strategic Partnership (NSP) has stated in the Community Development Plan for Northumberland covering the period 2007-2021, that it will focus on developing services in main market towns and improving access opportunities for outlying rural communities (NSP, 2007). This will include working with parishes to try to secure the viability of village facilities.

The market towns of Alnwick, Wooler and Rothbury provide the main service centres for the village – providing access to supermarkets, banks, doctors' surgeries and alternative public transport links. The adjacent map shows the distance of Glanton in relation to these service centres by road.

This section outlines the current position in relation to accessing main services including: transport, health and social care services, shops, post-offices and housing. The final section considers the issue of access to information and ways that this might be improved.

This plan must be realistic in its ambitions to reverse patterns of service decline that are driven by wider social and economic issues outside our control. However, there are a number of ways in which this Parish Plan could be used to improve access to information and services, that would benefit all local residents, and in particular, those who lack access to car transport. The main issues and some possible options for future action are highlighted in the following sections. It is hoped that these will provide a useful starting point for discussion and further action to develop Glanton as a sustainable rural community.

Access to Transport Services

Overview of Current Position

The 2007 Glanton Parish Survey of 177 residents revealed that *most* people, that is 108 in our survey, do not have a problem with accessing transport when they need to. However, nine people who completed the survey did *not* have access to a car when they needed one and seven people reported difficulties getting to and from the village. Fourteen people commented on the inconvenient bus timetable.

Residents' Views on Public Transport gathered in 2007 parish surveys.

'Public transport [is] ever diminishing, but will be needed by young, old and economically limited, I appreciate not an entirely parish matter but it should not slip from [the] social agenda'

'No Sunday bus, problems getting to emergency work'

'[I] foresee the need for bus in old age'

'Terrible lack of buses'

'No bus after 6pm or Sunday'

'Difficulty carrying shopping on bus' (3 people)

'Disabled – difficulty getting on and off bus'

'Wednesday and Saturday bus service to Newcastle, bus takes too long.'

'Bus times inconvenient' (14 residents)

Strengths

Glanton is currently on the main bus route to Wooler and Alnwick, where there is the option of joining connecting services to Morpeth, Berwick and Newcastle. The 'Sustrans'¹ route 68 of the national Cycle Route, part of the Pennine Cycleway, passes through the village as part of a recreational route from Derbyshire to Berwick via main railway stations.

¹ SUSTRANS - Sustainable Transport

Issues

Limited Public Transport and low levels of use

For those lacking access to a car or preferring to use public transport, options are limited. The bus service does not run after 6.30pm Monday to Saturday and there is no bus service on a Sunday. There is no direct bus service to the Wansbeck District General Hospital and only one direct bus to Newcastle that runs on Wednesdays and Saturdays only. Because of the timing of bus services some residents have reported difficulty accessing medical appointments. In the 2007 parish surveys, residents were asked to suggest improvements and their suggestions were:

'More public transport, especially late/early bus service to Alnwick'

'To have back the late bus service or just one at weekends to and from Alnwick'

'To reinstate the 10.25 bus service to Alnwick'

'More buses at weekends'

'A safe cycle track'

With regard to rail travel, the nearest main-line railway station is at Alnmouth, a travel distance of 13.5 miles. However, not all main-line rail services stop at Alnmouth, there is very limited car-parking space at the station and there is no direct bus service from Glanton. A greater choice of national rail connections is available from Berwick (a journey of 27 miles), however, similar problems apply in terms of using public transport to access the station.

The relatively low level of public use, especially outside peak hours is a threat to the future viability of public transport services in rural Northumberland. Low use is combined with the high cost of public subsidy required to maintain privately operated services. These issues may threaten future public transport provision. There is restricted access to local licensed mini-cab services and / or alternative community transport schemes and mini-cab options are expensive. These problems were summarised by one resident who commented in the parish survey: *'Transport – will it happen?'*

Although the Sustrans cycle route passes through the village there are few facilities for cyclists to access toilets/refreshments outside shop opening hours or during weekdays at present. The original route has been obstructed by the closure of the bridge over the river Breamish at Branton by Northumberland County Council for essential repair (still outstanding). As a result of the bridge closure, cyclists have to use the A697 through Powburn to access the Breamish

Valley and continue the route to Wooler. Ingram Parish Council, local residents and the Local Access Forum have lobbied the County Council for progress with the repair. The bridge closure is felt to detract from the appeal of the route to cyclists.

It seems that for the majority of Glanton residents there is little alternative to private car transport and this situation is unlikely to change in future. Looking to the future, rising fuel costs and environmental concerns that include global warming are increasing policy concerns about the impact of excessive car use. As a result, at national government level, there are likely to be further policy changes designed to limit private car use. Measures may include increased road-duty, higher fuel costs, and the extended use of road-toll and congestion charges. Increased motoring costs have major implications for residents in rural areas, particularly low-income households who may have to rely on private car transport from necessity rather than choice (CRC, 2007).

Population ageing: access to transport and local services

The rural population of England is growing and ageing at a faster rate than urban England as whole (CRC 2007). Population ageing refers to the proportion of people aged over 65 years compared to younger age groups. Glanton appears to reflect this trend. The 2001 census data shows that there were 32 pensioner households in total. Of these, 11 households were classed as 'lone pensioner households', meaning that they were occupied by a person of pensionable age who was living alone. The median age of the Glanton population in the 2001 census was 46 years (this can be compared to the current *national* median age of the population of 38 years for urban areas and 44 years for rural England as a whole² to show how, even in 2001, Glanton had an 'ageing' population). In total in 2001 there were 21 people aged 65-74 years and 26 people over 75 years. The 2001 census showed that out of a total of 32 pensioner households, 10 were without access to private car transport³.

The transport needs of older people in rural areas have been highlighted in national policy documents, including the Government's 2006 'National Strategy for Ageing' (DWP).

'...an ability to get out and about is central to enabling older people to participate in society. For older people in rural areas, the issue can be particularly acute'

***'Opportunity Age – Meeting the Challenges of Ageing in the 21st Century',
Office for the Deputy Prime Minister and Department of Work and Pensions
(2006:36)***

² 'State of the Countryside, 2007', Cheltenham, Commission for Rural Communities, p.15.

³ Neighbourhood Statistics, Parish Profile – Households Apr-01 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>)

The National Travel Survey in 2002 revealed that only 40% of people aged over 75 living in a rural area had access to a car (DEFRA, 2004). This is the population age group most likely to report difficulties in accessing services and amenities (DWP, 2005). Research into quality of life in old age has highlighted the positive benefits of good public transport and subsidised fares/free bus passes (Gabriel and Bowling, 2004). Having to stop driving and poor public transport can have a negative impact on perceived quality of life (Metz, 2000, Windle and Burholt, 2003, Gabriel and Bowling, 2004). Declining mobility can affect opportunities for social participation and may be a major factor in contributing to loneliness and social isolation in later life (Lucas et al., 2001, Breeze et al., 2002, Kenyon et al., 2003, Windle and Burholt, 2003, ODPM, 2006). There may be additional problems with poor disabled access in and around the local neighbourhood such as: poor quality pavements and street lighting, a lack of seats and handrails, careless parking, ice and snow in winter plus a lack of choice regarding transport alternatives. Northumberland County Council are currently preparing a Community Transport Strategy and information gathered as part of the parish planning process has been submitted. Further details are available from:

http://www.engagingpeople.org/survey/transport/community_transport_strategy.htm

Health Services

Overview of Current Position

NHS Services

The main district general hospital is the Wansbeck Hospital in Ashington. Specialist Referrals may be made to Royal Victoria Infirmary, the Freeman Hospital or Newcastle General Hospital. Community hospital services and minor injuries walk-in services are currently available from Alnwick Infirmary, Morpeth Cottage Hospital and Rothbury Community Hospital.

Out of Hours Care

Outside normal GP surgery opening hours medical cover is provided by Northern Doctors Urgent Care (NDUC). There is an Air Ambulance located at Otterburn Military Training Area. Additionally, in rural areas, teams of trained volunteers act as 'First Responders' – providing back-up to the emergency services. First Responders may be contacted by the ambulance service following an emergency call. They may be first on the scene and are trained to provide emergency first aid including the use of defibrillators where required. In Glanton we currently have two volunteer first responders but more volunteers are urgently needed to maintain this important service. Residents commented on the issue of waiting times for emergency care in the parish survey and described their experience of using the out of hours health services, as illustrated below:

'A visitor was ill, the first responder service was excellent, but the hospital at Ashington was very poor [and] slow'

'Almost everything could be improved...!'

'Very slow...long wait for advice'

Table (1) showing approximate road travel distances to hospital services from Glanton

Hospital Name		Approximate distance by road
Alnwick Infirmary	Community hospital, minor injuries and outpatients	9 miles
Berwick Infirmary	Community hospital, minor injuries and outpatients	27 miles
Rothbury Community Hospital	Community hospital and outpatients	10 miles
Wansbeck District General Hospital	Ashington Inpatients, A&E & Outpatients	26 miles
Newcastle General	Newcastle	37 miles
Royal Victoria Infirmary	Specialist referrals.	
Freeman Hospital		

General Practitioner Services (GPs)

Community health and social care services are organised through Northumberland Care Trust. Glanton residents have a choice of accessing GP services from Alnwick, Wooler or Rothbury. There are currently two General Practices in Alnwick, two in Wooler and one in Rothbury. Each provides a range of services including access to medical services and community nursing.

Northumberland Care Trust is currently operating with a large budget deficit (£14.million in 2007/08) and stringent financial cut-backs are being implemented to address this. Financial pressures and a plan by the Care Trust to extend the range of services provided by local GP practices by transferring services from acute hospital to primary care, caused problems with the negotiation of the new GP contract for 2008. It is an issue that requires a watching brief by the Parish Council to ensure that Glanton residents can continue to access community health services in the local area.

Dental Services

Dental practices are located in Alnwick and Rothbury. Changes to the national contract for NHS dental services means that it is not always easy to find NHS dental services in the local area. None of the dental services in Alnwick are accessible to people in wheelchairs.

In the 2007 parish surveys, residents reported the following problems in accessing health services:

'Wansbeck (hospital) is very difficult to access from here'

'Alnwick physiotherapist – long waiting list last time'

'parking (at local hospitals)'

'Finding a local NHS dentist is the problem. Our Alnwick dentist went private, so we had to move to Ashington! Now it is going private too...so back to Alnwick'

Central Government policy priorities include providing 'care closer to home'. At local level, this includes new funding to develop the role of community hospitals such as Alnwick and Rothbury as 'multi-service outlets' (MSOs). This would bring a range of health and social care services together under one roof and expand the range of services available. Financial pressures on Northumberland Care Trust may delay the progress with implementation and it is a situation that needs to be monitored at local level.

Opportunities and action points arising from the Parish Plan

- To complete a detailed consultation (health access audit) with older residents about access to health and social care
- To launch an active campaign to recruit and train more first responders and to provide emergency first aid training for residents.
- To make sure that information is freely available to all residents about local services (see Access to Information section)
- To ensure that Glanton is linked to 'Transport for Health' planning initiative and to appoint a parish council representative to keep up to date with local health service developments. These include: access to rural GP services, plans to extend and develop Alnwick Infirmary, access to accident/emergency and minor injuries and the ongoing development of the First Responder service.

Social Care Services

Overview of Current Position

The 2001 census figures for Glanton Parish revealed that 27 households contained one or more people with a limiting long-term illness⁴ (34 people in total). In the 2001 census, there were 26 residents aged 75 years and over, and this is the age group most likely to require social care services support. However, we do not have access to more up-to-date household profile information or details regarding the number of people in the Parish currently receiving help from social services. This information is not available from statutory agencies, even in anonymised format for reasons of confidentiality. For similar reasons of confidentiality, there were no questions about access to social care services in the Parish Survey although a separate snapshot questionnaire about access to services was distributed at a parish plan consultation coffee morning in September 2007. No specific issues were raised regarding access to social care services or the quality of provision but that does not mean that these are not a concern. Having access to information about where to get help appeared to be a more significant concern. Ensuring that family carers received information and adequate support is another important consideration.

This is a brief overview of current service locations and major plans and strategies for reform of services for adults and children in the county due for publication in 2008.

Services to support Older People to live at home

The overarching policy goal for Central Government is to support people to live as independently as possible in their own homes and to enable people to participate in community life. Northumberland Care Trust is responsible for organising social services support for older people. The local area office in Alnwick is the first point of contact for local social services. A range of services can be provided including home-care (home-help), equipment and home adaptations, access to information about benefits and pension credits, respite and day-care services, support for carers and schemes to reduce fuel poverty. In addition, local and countywide voluntary and community organisations provide a huge range of local services. These include advice and information, telephone befriending, a home-handyman scheme for small repairs, equipment, social activities, transport and help with shopping.

In December 2007, the government announced a major national programme of reform for adult social care services⁵. This will include providing 'cash instead of care' through a new system of Individual Budgets to enable people to choose and purchase their own services in a way that best meets their needs⁶. To make this new scheme a success in rural areas, there will be a need to ensure that people can find sources of reliable local help for this work. Ensuring that people have access to information about services and ways of accessing help

⁴ Neighbourhood Statistics, Parish Profile – Households Apr-01 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>)

⁵ 'Putting People First', Social Care Concordat, HM Government (2007), available from Dept of Health: (<http://www.dh.gov.uk>).

⁶ Older People in Northumberland – A longer term view – Draft strategic document for consultation November 2007 (*deadline 8th February 2008).

at local level will be very important. Age Concern Northumberland and other organisations will be working with Northumberland Care Trust to produce information, and a key action point for this parish plan will be to make sure that this information is available to anyone who needs it in the Parish. This issue links with the 'Access to Information' section of this plan. Northumberland Care Trust has prepared a draft 10-15 year strategy for 'Older People in Northumberland'. This document includes recognition of the need to pay particular attention to support for older people in rural areas and the final draft is due for publication in 2008.

At local level paying attention to environmental improvements (such as lighting, disabled access, pavement repairs etc), community safety improvements and making sure that people are aware of the home-handyman service will help to support people to live independently.

Services to support children, young people and families

Social Services support to children, young people and families is provided through The Children's Services Directorate, Northumberland County Council.

In March 2006 the Northumberland Families and Children's Trust (FACT) published their first three-year strategic plan to develop services in the county for children and young people called 'Having a Life'. This plan links to Northumberland Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement (LAA). However, in the light of emerging changes in national policy frameworks, the reorganisation of County Structures and further consultation work undertaken in the county, a new Children and Young People plan is being prepared. Publication was in March 2007⁷. Current targets in the LAA include: increasing breastfeeding, reducing childhood obesity, extending the provision of good quality childcare, and affordable housing.

One of the findings from the 2006 plan was that young people in rural areas of the county lacked adequate access to education and training opportunities compared to their urban equivalents. Furthermore, many chose to leave rural areas in search of employment and further education at school leaving age. The extent to which this is an issue for young people in Glanton is not known at this stage and further detailed consultation work with young residents may be beneficial to ensure that their views are fed into county strategies and the parish action plan. It is also likely to link to the issues of access to transport and affordable housing.

Housing Services

⁷ 'Having a Life' – Northumberland Children and Young People plan – Progress Report, March 2007.p.3.

Overview of Current Position

The 2001 census showed that the majority of Glanton residents (70%) owned their own property, with 17 households renting from Alnwick District Council and or Home Housing, and the remaining 15 rented from private landlords (Table 2).

Table (2) Glanton Parish – Housing Tenure – 2001 Census

Tenure	No	%
Owner Occupiers	74	70%
Rented from RSL/ LA	17	16%
Private Rented	15	14%
Total occupied HH	106	100%

As with many rural villages an increasing number of properties are used as second homes or short-term holiday lets. These properties may be vacant for several months of the year. A high demand for rural property and a relative shortage of new-build homes has led to a county and district-wide shortage of 'affordable homes'. The Community Strategy for Northumberland and the Local Development Framework outline the need to achieve a better balance between the range and cost of available housing and the needs of those living in local communities. However, under the terms of the current planning strategy, it is unlikely that significant new-build will occur in the immediate future in Glanton.

Alnwick District Council is responsible for housing homeless people. They also maintain a 'Home-Seekers Register' of people living in the district who wish to purchase 'affordable housing' in the price region of £60k-£80k. Alnwick District Council has nomination rights to the affordable housing included in planning requirements for new local housing developments, such as the new scheme at Powburn. Priority is given to residents in the parish, then to neighbouring parishes. Ensuring that Glanton residents are aware of this scheme could be an action point under this section.

Social Housing

Home Housing reported a low-turnover in lettings of their property in Glanton. There were only two new tenancies last year, and a specific waiting list for Glanton properties is *not* routinely maintained. There are currently no plans to expand social housing stock in Glanton, however rural housing needs are likely to be hidden and there may be justification for a joint housing needs survey with adjoining local parishes.

Shops/Post Office/Cash-point and other amenities

Overview of Current Position

Strengths

Glanton currently has one combined shop and post office in the centre of the village, open weekdays 8am – 1pm, shop only Saturday 8am – 1pm and closed on Sundays and Bank Holidays. This is supplemented by weekly visits by mobile shops including; Turnbull's Butchers, Fishmonger, Bakers, Rington's Tea and mobile library etc. The Glanton shop provides a local point of service for residents in Whittingham, Callaly, Branton and upper Powburn. Major supermarket chains (Tesco, Asda, Iceland) offer internet shopping and home delivery services to Glanton.

The shop provides access to a range of basic groceries, newspapers, cards and stationery and a range of household items. It is also a central information point for posters/fliers about local services and amenities. The shop currently hosts a web-based information point and free internet/computer access provided via Northumberland County Council. This is a popular service which is used daily during shop opening hours (25 people out of 112 respondents in the 2007 user survey reported regular use of the internet service in the shop and a further 9 people used it occasionally).

The post office offers the facility of access to cash free of charge and in the recent shop/post office user survey out of 112 respondents, 42 people said that they made regular use of this facility, and 21 people used it occasionally. The nearest alternative cashpoint would be at Hedgley where there is a charge of £1.25 per withdrawal outside post office opening hours. Approximately 20 people have prescribed medication delivered to the village shop each month.

Main Issues identified from 2007 Village Shop User Survey

The limited range of stock, particularly fresh food items, restricted opening hours and poor disabled access mean that the customer base is restricted. For example many commuters have left the village before the shop opens and it is closed when they return. No delivery service is currently offered. Lack of potential sales volume makes significant service expansion difficult and would require significant capital investment.

Many residents are unaware of the range of information available from the shop or do not access it because of the inconvenient opening hours, for example working commuters.

It is unlikely that the majority of residents will see the shop as their main source of essential shopping. To improve viability prospects, there would be a need to develop the convenience store aspect and extend the range of services offered, including possible delivery and efforts to widen the customer base.

Post Office Services

The National Post Office closure program may affect the future of the Glanton post office in its current form. The latest news available from Northumberland County Council in January 2008 has indicated that a total of 22 post offices in

Northumberland may be at risk of closure⁸. A public consultation exercise is planned for July 2008. Northumberland County Council and Alan Beith MP have been involved in the pre-public consultation exercise at regional level. If Glanton post office is nominated for closure, this may in turn affect the overall economic viability of the shop with a loss of an important village resource and social meeting point. The impact of this is likely to be greatest for older residents and those lacking access to private transport.

Post Office closure decisions are informed by economic viability of post offices' and proximity to other outlets. Currently alternative post office facilities are located in Powburn, Bolton, Wooler, Alnwick and Rothbury. Central Government has set a national target that states that 95% of the rural population will be within 3 miles of their nearest post office outlet⁹.

In August 2007, a petition in support of Glanton Post Office was launched. It collected 207 signatures and attracted front-page coverage in the Northumberland Gazette. The petition was forwarded to Alan Beith MP who is working to protect village post office services as part of a national consultation group. In addition to the petition, a post office/shop user survey was distributed to every household in the Glanton and Whittingham parishes and circulated via the village shop. A total of 112 replies were received (Table 3). Of these 112 respondents, 87 people reported regular use of the post office, and 23 reported occasional use.

Table (3) – Responses to 2007 Glanton Post Office/Shop User Survey

Parish	No Returned
Glanton	74
Whittingham	18
Callaly	9
Powburn	8
Branton	2
Not Stated	1
Total	112

A separate report has been prepared with the detailed results however the main findings indicate that the post office is important to local residents, particularly those who are in the village during the day. Although the overall volume of post office business is not large, there are a number of residents who would find it difficult to access services elsewhere if the village post office service is lost. At this stage it is unclear what alternative post-office facilities would be made available if the post office counter service was closed. Mobile services have been mentioned in the main information document but it is unlikely that these would provide a daily weekday service. It is important that Glanton maintains a

⁸ Northumberland Gazette, Thursday January 24, 2008 (p5).

⁹ Age Concern England, 'Stamped Out – Post Office Campaign Pack', June 2007

presence at the consultation events and that residents receive ample notice of the consultation process to ensure maximum response.

Access to Information

Overview of Current Position

It is claimed that we live in an 'Information Age'. On the one hand, we appear to be overwhelmed with information, however some people still report difficulty in finding the information that they need about local services. At a community level, keeping in touch with parish residents is important for ongoing community involvement. This includes making sure that everyone knows about village events, parish council matters and how they can help with community activities. At an individual level, people need reliable sources of information that are easy to access in order to get the services and help that they need.

Our current strengths

A village newsletter is currently produced six times each year and delivered to every household in Glanton with a copy available on the village website. There are a number of notice boards' around the village including in the shop, outside the URC church, opposite the shop/post office, inside the Queen's Head pub and Joan Gardner's window on Front Street. The Church, Women's Institute and other clubs and associations offer useful ways of circulating information to their members.

A new computerised 'Info-point' has been installed in the village shop. This offers free access to information about a wide range of local and countywide services during shop opening hours.

Issues

The notice boards are currently in poor condition and generally have a chaotic appearance. The newsletter is limited in content and there is a time lag for maintaining up-to-date relevance. Not everyone has access to the Internet to view the village website and it is out of date. Printing facilities for posters and written communication in the village are limited for example we currently rely on one very old black and white photocopier in the village hall.

Capital and revenue funding will be required to renew notice boards and printing equipment and someone will need to be responsible for updating and maintenance. Revenue funding will be required to redesign and update the website on a regular basis, and to cover the printing costs for the village newsletter. It has been suggested that a village information booklet is produced for every household (although it may be easier to improve the use of the existing facilities in order to keep information up to date). We need to provide a range of information in alternative formats to reach the different population groups within the village.

Lack of coordination means that people will miss out on information and services. Some residents will not feel 'engaged' with the community. The village fails to keep pace with technology and misses opportunities for inward investment.

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Appendix 1 – 2007 Shop/Post Office User Survey Collated Feedback

Glanton Shop User Survey – Summary of Comments

Table (1) – Responses to 2007 Glanton Post-Office/Shop User Survey

Parish	No. Returned
Glanton	74
Whittingham	18
Callaly	9
Powburn	8
Branton	2
Not Stated	1
Total	112

Items that you would like to be able to buy from a local shop

Fresh Fruit and Veg	x14	Picture Postcards	x 4
Tinned Goods	x 7	Frozen Foods	x 4
Dried Goods	x 7	Confectionery	x 4
Newspapers	x 6	B/Fast Cereals	x 4
Basic Medicines	x 6	Meat/Pies	x 6
Dairy Produce	x10	Soft Drinks	x 4
Bakery Items	x10	Tea/Coffee	x 4
Toiletries	x 6	Deli Items	x 2
Kindling, Logs, Coal	x 4	Local Honey	x 1
Small stationery items	x 7	Stamps	x 1
Small hardware items	x 4	Nice Cheese	x 1
Toilet rolls/kitchen rolls	x 1	Crisps	x 1

Other Services that you would like the shop to provide

All postal services

Sunday Newspapers (x2)

Stamps outside post office opening hours

Local information about services and events etc

Coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits

Open different hours

Offer Delivery service

Offer Good Neighbour Service for village

(e.g. collection /delivery for those who can't manage)

Open one evening a week

A book exchange

A place for parcels to be delivered when I am out (x2)

Other Comments

'Don't use post office because of lack of privacy for transactions'

'Perhaps expand stock range (food items)

'Longer opening hours'

'It is essential that Glanton Post Office continues to function, bad for local community if it goes'

'The local Post Office means that the two pensioners living in this house can post letters, collect pensions, buy stamps and magazines and top-up grocery shopping which otherwise would mean a journey to Rothbury

'Service is wonderful but shop never looks well stocked - expand or partnership with local Deli?'

'Collection of prescriptions is very useful'

'Some postal services and shopping services are essential for villages, there should be such a service within at least a mile of every village or hamlet'

'Offer Apprenticeships to keep young people in village'

'Might be good to provide a list of the forms that the shop can provide'

and social meeting spot, perhaps have a gallery as well, evening café with live music – let's go wild!

'Need everyday items at an affordable price, not eco-friendly or organic alternatives'

'Open longer hours – is closing at lunchtime really saving that much money?'

'No change is necessary'

'It would be nice if the post office could expand into the adjacent shop and develop the café

'Rarely use post office or shop because rarely around during opening hours'

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

1. The Architectural Character of Glanton

Historical Overview

Glanton sprang from a cluster of farms strung from east to west just below and to the south of a sandstone ridge which rises to Glanton Hill and Glanton Pyke. It is the sandstone quarried from Glanton Pyke that gives the village and buildings within the parish a strong upstanding character.

Though records of the hamlet of Glanton reach back to the 13th century, the first surviving buildings are from the late 17th century (notably The Villa - now known as Whickham House – built in 1692). As the landowners prospered through the 18th century the houses of Town Farm (1721), Glanton House (1749) and The Mansion (1796) were built. Predating them, however, are some of their undated attendant cottages and outbuildings. The village became through the Victorian and Edwardian periods almost self-sufficient serving Whittingham Vale as its commercial centre. The homes of the artisans and shopkeepers now forming the village landscape were originally individual houses. Over the years these have been in-filled to form charming workaday terraces either side of a broad street, which is fed by five roads leading into the village. The addition of the Presbyterian Church, the school and Memorial Hall all followed the use of sandstone for their construction, but it is only since the Second World War that there has been an introduction of alternative building materials in a major way.

Roofing materials have been and are predominantly slate. However, this probably post-dates in some cases pantiles or stone tiles of which there are still some examples. It is likely that the earliest buildings in Glanton were thatched in reed or heather, but there is no definitive evidence. Fenestration throughout the village shows the fashion of the time, ranging from the multi glass panes of the Georgian period right through to our modern UPVC windows. The roads have changed from a muddy track through to our modern metalled surface, from horse and cart to articulated lorry.

The Present Position

2001 Glanton Conservation Area



A Conservation Area is "any area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to protect or enhance"¹⁰.

(a) Listed Buildings within Glanton Parish

The Parish has a number of Listed Buildings dating mostly from the 18th century. 24 listings cover 11 properties or features. The most notable of these is Glanton Pyke, a fine country house some half-mile west of the village built circa 1780 for John Mills and extended by John Dobson for Henry Collingwood in 1829. A full set of the listings can be viewed at www.alnwick.gov.uk/an/webconnect.exe/AO2/View/?Site=1806¹¹

10

Reference

Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

11

References

'Whittingham Vale' by David Dippie Dixon 1895

'Glanton Village' by Willis Dixon 1978

'Glanton Village Chronicle' (published 2001) - chapter on Architectural Heritage based on WI book 'Glanton' produced for Architectural Heritage Year 1976.

(b) Properties within Glanton Parish

Within the village there are some 127 Dwellings, most of which are occupied. These include 14 holiday or second homes, as well as 3 in various stages of renovation. There is also a church, a public house, a Shop/Post Office, a redundant hall, a memorial hall, a church hall, an office, various workshops and farm buildings.

Outwith the village there are an additional 14 dwellings, which include 3 holiday cottages.

(c) Village Design Statement

The villagescape of Glanton has developed at its own pace with no formal control until comparatively recently. Mass production and standardisation of products have a strong bearing on the changes to the local vernacular, so consideration should therefore be given to whether a Village Design Statement may be appropriate.

With the coming changes in local government and the centralisation of services such as Planning and Building Control, a basic locally produced document would be invaluable. Current planning is controlled by The Department of the Environment, who set out the government's policies within Planning Policy Guidance notes (PPGs). Local Authorities must take the contents of PPGs into account when preparing their development plans, thus giving a strong top-down influence on Planning in which local opinion has very little impact. This was clearly illustrated during the recent redrawing of the Conservation Area within Glanton Parish.

A Design Statement should encourage and recognise historic regional character. The use of best modern practices to provide comfortable, economic and environmentally secure living standards is strongly recommended¹².

Highways and Safety

12

References

- a) Alnwick District Wide Local Plan, Alnwick District Council and its influence on village development.
- b) Conservation Area – Listed Buildings, English Heritage, Alnwick District Council: their influence on village development.

Although outside the parish, the junction to the A697 from the Causeway was specifically identified in respondents' remarks.

Highway junctions are governed by "Residential Roads & Footpaths in Northumberland" prepared by Northumberland County Council. This is currently being updated however as the geometry set out therein is relevant to this junction, a check should be made and a recommendation put forward to the relevant Authorities.

4. Signage - Approaches to Glanton



The Causeway



Whittingham Road



Playwell Road



High Road



West Turnpike

On arriving at Glanton, you are welcomed by a mixed collection of signs in various states of repair. The standard highways village name board in blue-on-white ground, the speed limits and the additional non-standard signs are all set out in random arrangements. In some cases these can be obscured even with winter foliage. Although this may have a certain charm and informality, some consideration should be given to the number of signs and the message they convey.

Speeding within the village was highlighted in the Survey. The signage should be reappraised in view of this, along with the existing *Caution Children at Play* and *Neighbourhood Watch* signs, which were erected twenty or more years ago and are now either damaged or missing. The 30 mph and village name signs on the West Turnpike should be moved to the west of the old school to match all the other entrances to the village. Presently, the old school and the nearby house *Overlook*, could be considered as outside the village.

The street nameplates are all in place; one has Virginia creeper over it. They are fully visible, but would benefit from a repaint. Fire hydrant signs in some cases require repair.

Road direction signs are notable by their absence. The modern signpost at the junction of Front Street, West Turnpike and High Road is not in keeping with the village setting. A proposal to reinstate the traditional Northumbrian cast-iron signage should be considered; an original black and white post still remains at the junction of Front Street, Causeway and the Playwell and requires its finger signs. A new post and signage sited on the Green at the junction between Front Street and Whittingham Road (along with a replacement post and signage at Front Street, West Turnpike and High Road) would reinstate a village feature and also be of great use to visitors, who often have to ask for directions.

Street lighting

There is a varied selection of streetlights within the village, mostly emitting orange sodium light. They lack design co-ordination and any consideration for the problem of light pollution. Security and safety dictate a need for street lighting, however existing units should be replaced (perhaps at the end of their current useful life) by units that are sympathetic with the village setting and eco-friendly. Further consideration should be given to the period the lights are illuminated to save on electricity.

We are very lucky here in Glanton that the urban glow of Tyneside only illuminate's part of our southern horizon, although this is increasing year by year. Residents should consider very carefully the use of high-powered security lighting so as not to either interfere with neighbours and passing cars or add to light pollution.

Street Furniture

There are various items of street furniture that require regular maintenance.

The telephone box (a traditional red painted cast-iron K6 kiosk originally designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott) was restored and moved from outside 28 Front Street (former Post Office) to its present position. This was done as a concession to the village's conservation area. There is now a threat to remote telephone boxes due to low usage arising from the proliferation of mobile phones; if the box is to remain, it will be necessary to demonstrate its value to the village. The box is now in need of a repaint; this used to be done on a regular basis by British Telecom as part of their maintenance and cleaning contract. As part of our care for the telephone box we need to find out who is now responsible for the box's maintenance and ensure that maintenance is preserved.

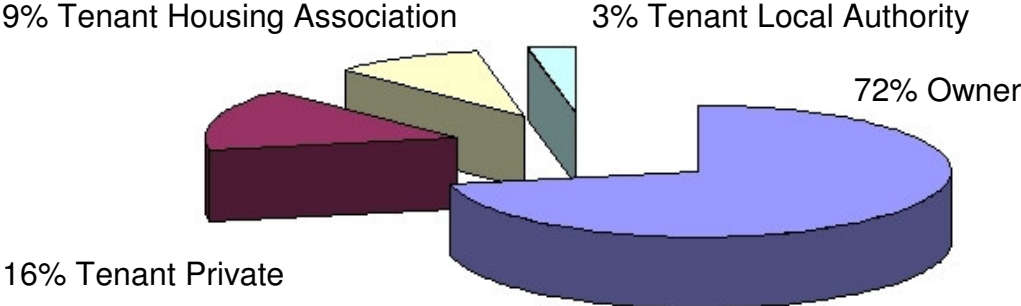
Other items such as seats and bins also require attention and a service schedule should be drawn up.

The site of the present village notice board is not ideal. It should be located near the village centre and in a position that is regularly passed by residents.

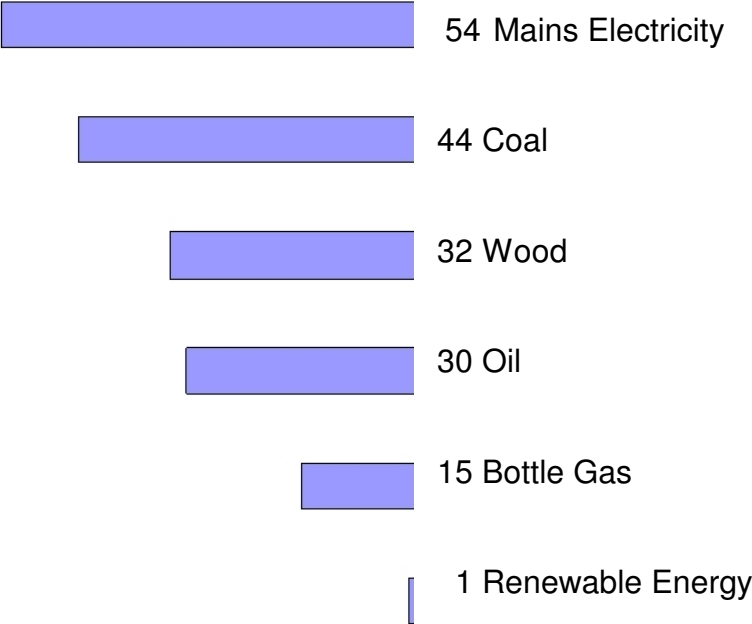
Survey results for Built Environment Section

The charts show the results as a percentage of the respondents and can only be taken as a guide to opinion.

Q3. Are you an Owner / Tenant Local Authority / Tenant Private / Tenant Housing Association



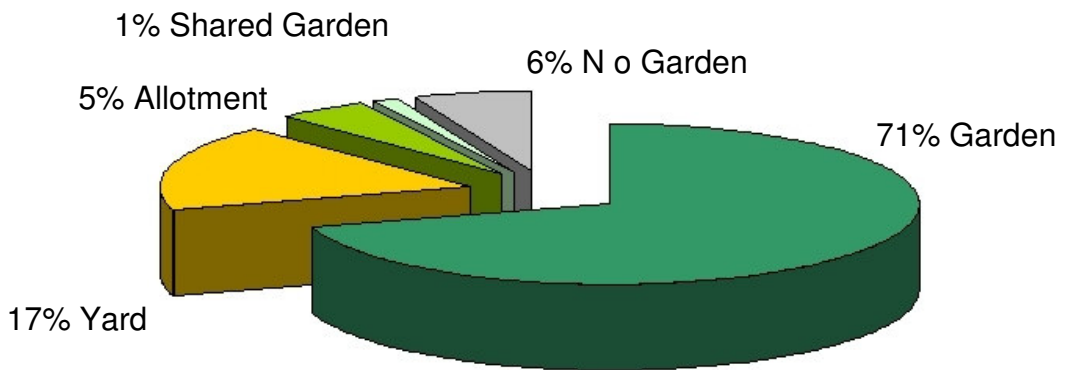
Q5 Which types of domestic fuel do you use? Please tick all you use
Mains electricity / Coal / Wood / Oil / Bottled gas / Renewable energy e.g. solar, wind etc.



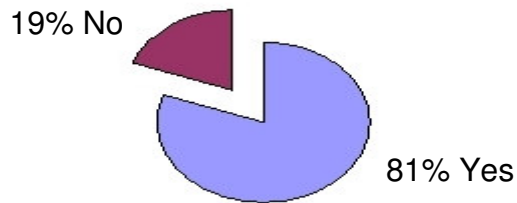
Q4. Is this your main home?

The response to this question was 100% main home, however it is known that there are several holiday and second home properties within the parish.

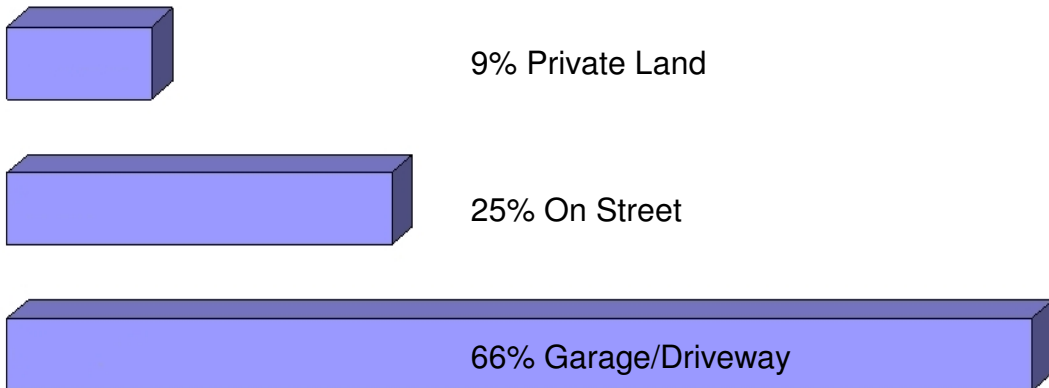
Q8. Does your house have? Garden / Yard-Patio / Allotment / Shared Garden / No Garden



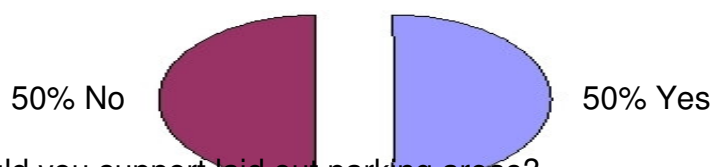
Q17 Would you support improvements to the pavements?



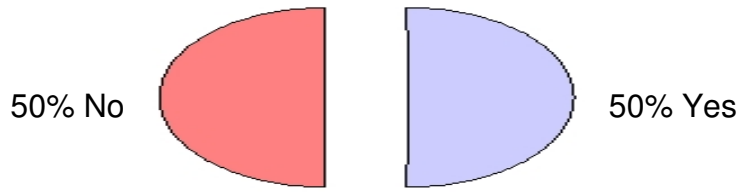
Q13 If you own a car or van where do you park over night?
Garage / Driveway / Private Land / On Street



Q18 Do you think on-street parking is a problem in some parts of the village?

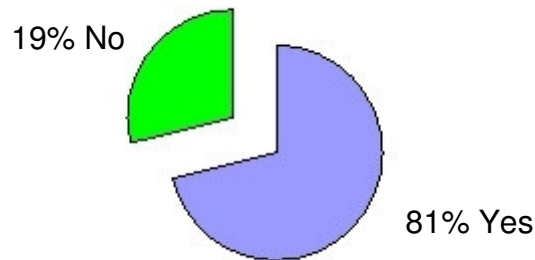


Q19 Would you support laid out parking areas?

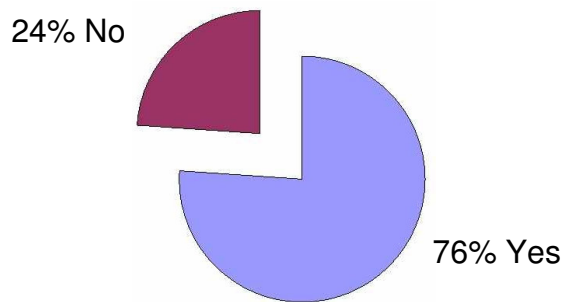


Although not clear from the Survey, parking is and is likely to become more acute.

Q20 Do you think speeding traffic is a concern in the Parish?



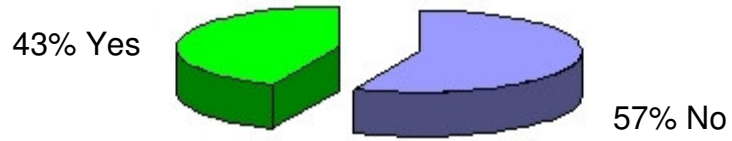
Q21 Would you support “20 is PLENTY” signs for the village?



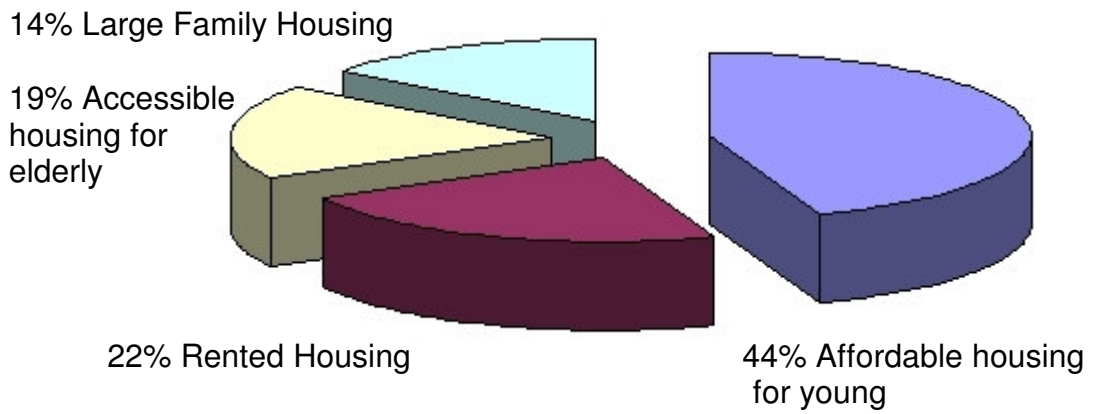
Q22 Would you support “**Please Drive Carefully**” and “**Thank You for Driving Carefully**” signs?

Speeding and safety have already been raised within Parish Council and the responses to Qs 20-21 show an overwhelming concern for this subject.

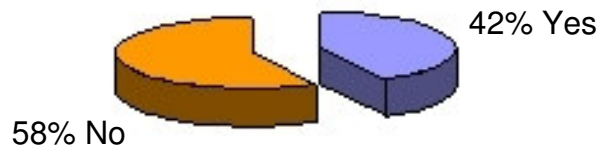
Q32 Do you think there is a need for more housing in the village?



Q33 If YES to 32 what type of housing do you think is needed?



Q34 Would you support a change in planning policy or village boundary to provide more land for housing?



LOCAL ECONOMY

This section, which is influenced by a recent study of the Northumberland Uplands (CRE 2007), profiles issues that influence the economic context of Glanton, and concludes with a focus on the parish itself.

The principal benchmark for any study based on population and settlement is the 2001 Census, which has been made publicly available by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). Some data sets have been released at civil parish level, and these are invaluable, but in order to consider some wider issues for the community it is essential to examine more detailed information that has been released at Electoral Ward level, even though it is accepted that these figures include a larger population beyond the parish. There are sufficient similarities between communities within the Electoral Ward (Whittingham) as to render most assessments of the whole to be relevant to the individual parts. Where the available data dictates, reference is made to the Electoral Ward. In some instances it is possible to compare the parish to the situation in the Electoral Ward, District, County, Region and Country. Unfortunately, the age banding used in the 2007 Questionnaire does not follow the banding of the 2001 Census so some comparisons are difficult; for example it is not possible to separate retired from pre-retired and some overlap is inevitable.

Demographic Profile

One of the most important factors in the economic assessment of the parish is the general structure of the population. Nationally the population is ageing. But ageing is more marked in Northumberland and even more so in Glanton Civil Parish. The census figures for 2001 record that in that year 21.3% of the population of the parish were over 65. This is 3.7% more than the Northumberland average and 5.4% more than the national average. In the 2007 parish questionnaire, 36.3% of respondents were over 60, with almost 20% (or one in five) over the age of 70. As 28.8% of respondents fell within the 40-59 age range, coupled with 20.1% (national average of 17.4%) of the Whittingham Ward falling within the 50-64 'pre-retirement' bracket, the ageing trend of the parish can be confidently predicted to continue upwards.

The figures also indicate a relatively low percentage of young people.

This is often cited as one of the key issues in rural consultations, which is inevitably compounded over time by outward migration. Young people will tend to seek opportunities further afield and not only is this good for their development but should be encouraged particularly in the pursuit of academic qualifications and training. However, unless there are employment opportunities, housing capacity and continued family connections, it is more than likely that most will not return, even if they wished to. They will have made little or no contribution to the economy before they leave.

Table: Age Structure

Population by age band, 2001					
Number in age band as % of total					
	total	0-15	16-24	25-64	65 and over
England	49,138,831	20.2	10.9	53.1	15.9
North East	2,515,442	19.8	11.2	52.6	16.6
Northumberland	307,190	18.8	9.4	54.2	17.6
Alnwick DC	31,029	18.1	8.3	54.0	19.6
Whittingham Ward	976	19.3	5.3	54.3	21.2
Glanton Civil Parish	222	16.2	7.2	55	21.3
Population by age band, 2007					
Glanton questionnaire	total	0-17	18-29	30-59	60+
% age	146	17.1	8.9	37.7	36.3

Detailed population by age band, 2007									
	0	5	13	18	30	40	60	70	80+
68 households	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4	12	17	29	39	59	69	79	
146	5	14	6	13	13	42	24	17	12
% age	3.4	9.6	4.1	8.9	8.9	28.8	16.4	11.6	8.2

In terms of young people of working age, the parish also compares unfavourably (here taken as 18-29). In the 2007 Questionnaire 8.9% of the population of the parish were in this bracket, compared to 10.5% for Alnwick District, 14.4% for the North East and 15% for England. Whittingham Ward returned only 6.7% in 2001.

On a positive note, there is a higher than average representation within the middle band of the population (based on the questionnaire band 40-69). This section of the community will tend to be the highest wage earning part of the community, particularly the age group 50-65. In 2007, 45.2% of the respondents were in this category compared to the 2001 figures of 43.4% for Whittingham Ward, 41.1% for Alnwick District, 36.6% for the North East and 35.1% for England.

The potential of the 'pre-retired' is increasingly being appreciated as a factor in the economics of rural areas. Employment rates, for instance, tend to be higher in this category than the national average for both sexes (Green 2006). They are also more likely to run businesses and consume local rural services than the younger age groups.

The role of 'inward migration' and mobility as an economic driver in rural areas is a subject of much debate. For instance, are a growing population and inward

migration necessary to secure economic prosperity? Also, are restrictive planning regulations that reduce the rate of house building acting as a barrier to economic development in deep-rural areas such as Glanton? What is without doubt is that affordability issues for young people, availability of suitable housing stock for local retiring people, and low average income levels that have worsened in recent years, are all restrictions on economic development. This trend is likely to continue. The situation has been exacerbated over the past 20 years. Contributory factors are the growth in second and incoming retirement homes, the sale of social housing provided by the local authority, the popularity of buy to let, and the conversion of residential properties to self-catering holiday units.

The 2007 Questionnaire included a number of questions relating to new house building in the parish. Of those expressing a view on whether they were in favour of new housing in the village or not, 49 respondents were in favour with 39 of them expressing a willingness to see new affordable housing for young people. Whilst this represents a minority of residents, it is interesting to cross-reference the same question against years of residency in the village. Those opposed to new housing had an average residency of 8 years, whereas those in favour averaged 16 years. This suggests that those who have lived in the parish for the least amount of time are more likely to want no change; after all, they chose to move to the village as it is and see no reason to change. Conversely, it suggests that those who have lived in the village on average twice as long have experienced its decline and are more willing to accept change for the better. This is particularly so if it provides opportunities for young people.

House price figures for all categories of housing indicate that the average price of housing in Glanton (£189,447) is considerably lower than the average for Alnwick District (£223,914) and the UK national average (£222,256), but higher than the average for Northumberland (£181,742) and significantly higher than the North East average (£148,686).
(March 2008: www.bbc.co.uk; www.houseprices.thenorthernecho.co.uk).

Table: Barriers to housing and services

Index of Multiple Deprivation		
SCORE	RANKING	Relationship to ward boundary
50.03	299	Harbottle and Whittingham Ward
<i>England only, where 1 is the most deprived, and 32482 the least deprived</i>		

An examination of Department of Communities and Local Government indices of deprivation data indicates that Whittingham Ward falls within the bottom 1% in England regarding access to housing and services.

Skills, Employment and Income Profiles

Table: Education and Skills

Index of Multiple Deprivation				
Domain Indices of Deprivation 2004, Education and Skills				
LA NAME	Lower SOA Code	SCORE	RANKING	Relationship to ward boundary
Alnwick	E01027373	8.75	22988	Harbottle and Whittingham Wards
<i>England only, where 1 is the most deprived, and 32482 the least deprived</i>				

Table: Employment

LA NAME	Lower SOA Code	SCORE	RANKING	Relationship to ward boundary
Alnwick	E01027373	0.08	16457	Harbottle and Whittingham Wards
<i>England only, where 1 is the most deprived LLSOA, and 32482 the least deprived</i>				

The two tables above indicate that Glanton (situated within Whittingham Ward) is in the top 30% of the least deprived areas of the country when measured against education and skills and there are also no significant issues regarding employment within Whittingham Ward. Glanton, therefore, lies approximately in the middle with no greater or lesser disadvantage against national criteria.

Table: Qualifications

Highest level of qualifications: percentage of economically active and employed people by ward in 2001				
	Total for economically active and employed	Level of qualifications		
		None	Lower level only	Higher level
England	21,650,270	25.8	49.4	24.8
North East	998,351	28.0	51.9	20.1
Northumberland	132,645	26.6	51.6	21.8
Alnwick	13,546	25.7	50.4	23.8
Whittingham Ward	425	25.2	50.4	24.5

Whittingham Ward has lower numbers of people with no qualifications than the Northumberland average. Some 25.2% of people have no qualifications. This compares very unfavourably with rural areas across England, but is marginally better than the district and county average.

Table: No qualifications national / rural comparison

Area	No qualifications
All England Rural	11%
Whittingham Ward	25.2%

Average Incomes

The regional map of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 indicates that the most peripheral wards of Northumberland experience the highest levels of deprivation. The table of occupations demonstrates that most people are in relatively low paid employment. The State of the Countryside report 2007 (p 70, fig. 3.2.5) has mapped Lower Quartile Household Incomes which shows significant areas of the lowest quartile average income levels (£11,482 – 21,604) in this part of Northumberland (CRC 2007).

Pension Credit

Pension credit is a means tested benefit available to those over 70 on low incomes. These are sensitive statistics to which the rounding rule applies. In 2004, some 40 residents of Whittingham Ward were in receipt of pension credit, well below the national average of the eligible population.

Local Economic Profile

The tables below give some indication of the nature of the economy in the Upland Areas of Northumberland.

Table: VAT- based enterprises by ward using employment size (2004)

	Total	0 - 4 persons employed	5 - 9 persons employed	10 - 19 persons employed	20+ persons employed
Whittingham Ward	45	40	5	0	0
Alnwick District	1,305	935	185	115	65
North East	59,565	34,970	10,805	6,380	7,410

Source: ONS - Neighbourhood Statistics

The VAT data demonstrates that the area, in relative terms, is predominantly a micro-business economy with the great majority of firms having four or fewer employees. There are no companies falling into the category of Small to Medium Enterprises (over 10 employees).

Table: Percentage of workers in each economic sector

Percentage of population working in industry in 2001				
Industry	England	North East	Alnwick	Whittingham Ward
Agriculture; hunting and forestry; fishing	1.5	1.2	7.5	24.8
Mining and quarrying; utilities	1.0	1.6	2.0	0.7
Manufacturing	14.8	17	9.5	10.3
Construction	6.8	7.3	7.8	3.9
Wholesale and retail trade; repairs	16.9	16.2	13.4	11.7
Hotels and restaurants	4.7	5.1	6.3	3.0

Transport storage and communications	7.1	6.8	4.4	2.3
Financial Intermediation	4.8	3.0	1.9	1.6
Real estate; renting and business activities	13.2	9.2	9.2	8.5
Public admin and defence; social security	5.7	7.4	11.9	9.2
Education	7.7	8.0	8.5	8.0
Health and social work	10.7	12.7	13.2	10.6
Other	5.2	4.5	4.4	5.5

Source: ONS - Neighbourhood Statistics

The percentage of workers in each economic sector confirms the importance of the land-based sector to the local economy. This is particularly so when compared with north-east regional and national figures, and even against the district figure. The public sector is the single biggest employer in the Ward with 27.8% of the workforce. The wholesale and retail trade is also an important sector for employment.

Agriculture

In the deep-rural areas of Northumberland more than half of all farms are tenanted, which restricts the ability of the farm businesses to diversify. In Glanton, however, all of the farms are owned and are therefore better placed to adapt to change and to diversify their businesses.

The number of people employed in agriculture has continued to fall over the past two decades. Although it remains a significant employer, wages have been historically low in this sector. Agriculture is a target theme for the new Rural Development Programme for England, but it remains to be seen whether this will have a significant impact on the decline experienced in this sector in recent years. On a positive note, the recent rise in world food prices may provide a fillip for the farming industry. Certainly, the rise in feed costs are already being felt at the farm gate and these will inevitably be passed on through the supply chain leading to rising values in livestock units at the mart. Anecdotally, some farm businesses in the area are reporting that they are no longer seeking to diversify but are looking to increase stock levels while prices are rising.

Number of people engaged in agriculture on farms in Northumberland Uplands, 1990 to 2005 (CRE 2007)				
	Farmers full & part time	Full-time male workers	Casual workers	Total, All farmers, managers and workers
2005	1,096	259	147	1,607
1990	1,091	441	190	1,898

Employment in Glanton

Glanton lies within an area of Northumberland characterised by economic under performance. This is based on a range of factors including remoteness, population sparsity, low levels of business start-ups, and rural disadvantage. Opportunities for employment within the village are now limited. Over the last century, the mechanisation of farming, amalgamation of farms and estates, closure of the railway, the nucleation of service sector employment in the market towns, and the conversion of business premises to domestic use, have all impacted upon job prospects in the village. The attraction of employment in the urban industrial areas and of education opportunities have continued to drain young people from the parish as they seek new opportunities and experiences farther afield. Glanton's location and its excellent road connections have helped its transition to a dormitory community with the majority of the working population in the village commuting elsewhere to work.

The questionnaire included a question relating to local business. Being anonymous, and a partial coverage, it is impossible to draw too many conclusions from it. However, of the 116 adults recorded in the survey, 21 (18%) replied that they ran a business (including those who were self-employed in or from the parish). Ten of the businesses recorded full-time employees in the parish and ten recorded part-time employees in the parish. Whilst these results do not indicate the numbers employed by each business or the residents who have multiple employment, some businesses do employ both full and/or part time staff. It is certainly clear that the indigenous economy remains significant to the parish.

(a) Farming

The vast majority of land in the parish is farmed which adds significantly to the setting and character of the village. South Farm, Town Farm, Mile End and Glanton Pyke all have a base in the parish, whilst Shawdon and Rothill also farm a small area of land. Agriculture has experienced considerable turmoil over the past few decades with crisis following crisis. Through sound management and steely determination, the Glanton farms have withstood these difficulties and continue to manage our countryside in a positive way that benefits us all by adding to our quality of life.

(b) Retail

The shop-cum-post office is the last remaining retail unit in the parish, the *Good Life* shop having closed in 2007. Opening hours are limited to mornings and without the subsidised income from the post office, the future of this business is far from secure. The effects of its closure would impact psychologically on the whole parish. But it would also mean a profound change for those relying on its services, especially as a post office. In the recent post office survey, 63% of customers were over 60.

With the local age profile predicted to increase, a greater percentage of the shop's customers will be greatly disadvantaged if they lose the post office

facility. 26 respondents to the questionnaire regularly use the post office to collect their pensions. Interestingly, almost an equal number of people from Whittingham also collect their pensions from the Glanton post office. Unfortunately, no measure of the extent to which customers also use the retail business on their visits to the shop was taken during the survey, so it is difficult to extrapolate the impact on the retail business beyond the obvious assumption of a significant reduction in custom.

Although use of the shop by people from outside the parish is poor, it may be a reflection that its services are less popular the further people live away from it. The low take-up from Whittingham is perhaps more surprising as it has more than twice the population of Glanton, but no post office or shop. Its residents must, therefore, travel further than Glanton for their postal services. It may be that they could obtain these in conjunction with their journeys for other purposes to Alwick and further afield. Significant numbers must, however, use Powburn in preference to Glanton. There the convenience store cum post office offers a much wider range of retail and other services, including fuel, and more convenient opening hours.

(c) Hospitality

The Queen's Head is the only public house in the parish. Under new ownership since June 2006, it relies on local custom and some seasonal trade from visitors to the area. Whilst the growth potential of the former is limited, a growth in trade from visitors has considerable potential, particularly if there is a "good pub food" offer. However, an effective promotional campaign will be crucial to its success and this could include signage on the A697 and networking with local accommodation providers.

(d) Tourism

At least four self-catering cottages exist within the parish, i.e. Simonside Cottage, the Hayloft and two at Hemmel House. This is a somewhat smaller number than even a year ago because of sales and conversions into residential properties. Occupancy figures for these self-catering cottages are unavailable, so their impact on the local economy cannot be quantified as yet. However, both the shop and the pub could benefit from increased trade from visitors.

(e) Trades

A number of residents operate trade businesses in and from the village. These include fencing, building, car maintenance, plumbing and hairdressing. Other businesses include a nursery and architectural services

In conclusion, Glanton has an ageing population and a low proportion of young people. Whilst unemployment is not significantly high, the reliance on land-based industries and the public sector for more than half of all employment means that average incomes are relatively low. Affordable housing (particularly for young people), poor transport links, the distance from social and retail

services, and out-migration have all contributed to the development of Glanton as a dormitory village.

Whilst the economy of the parish has declined in recent decades, there remains significant local employment. A few local trades, the pub and shop-cum-post office have continued to exist in difficult times and it is up to residents as consumers to support the local economy and ensure that we all continue to benefit from them in future.

Energy

Out of the 68 respondents to the Questionnaire, 100% use electricity for some or all of their domestic energy requirements. 65% use solid fuel (coal, coal and wood, wood) for some or all of their heating requirements. 46% used heating oil (kerosene) and 25% used gas (LPG). Only 1% (effectively 1 household) used renewable energy as a component of their domestic energy needs.

In economic and carbon emission terms, electricity remains the most expensive fuel. It is most prone to rising prices as it relies largely on fossil fuel production and has high inefficiency losses. Mains gas is currently one of the lowest unit-cost and CO₂-emitting domestic fuels, but is unavailable to the parish.

Fuel	Pence per k/Wh after boiler efficiency	CO ₂ pollution per k/Wh
Electricity Standard Rate	10.63 (100%)	0.422
Mains Gas Standard Rate	2.78 (90%)	0.194
Kerosene Heating Oil	5.26 (90%)	0.265
LPG	4.69 (90%)	0.234
Un-seasoned Wood	1.88 (80%)	0.025
Wood Pellet	4.02 (80%)	0.025
House Coal	4.18 (75%)	0.291

Table: Based on figures from Nottingham Energy Partnership (accurate as of 5th January 2008) – excludes capital cost of system installation.

Fuel	Number of households	% of households
Electricity (Standard Rate)	68	100
House Coal	44	65
Wood	33	49
Oil	31	46
Bottled Gas	17	25
Renewable energy	1	1

Table: Glanton Parish Plan Questionnaire Results

Although house coal (a relatively high CO₂ emitter) is used by almost two thirds of households in the parish, the unit price remains competitive. If used in conjunction with wood as a 50/50 mix, it can be a more efficient fuel with a lower average CO₂ emission. Many households will have open hearths that are the least efficient method of heat production. Substantial efficiencies can be gained from the switch to a multi-fuel stove and the capital costs of a fully integrated system compare favourably with other fuels. In the longer term, rising costs in transporting coal coupled with its high CO₂ emission may raise the cost of using it significantly. The costs of purchase and installation of woodchip and pellet boilers are currently high but will become competitive when the supply chain is more fully developed. The advantage of these systems over coal and wood is that they can be fed automatically and less frequently topped up making them more manageable for the elderly and less able.

A high proportion (46%) of the parish use oil as their principal source of heating and there may be scope for greater coordination of supply and purchasing.

The energy market is notoriously difficult to predict. However, one thing we can be certain of is that the trend in domestic energy prices will continue to be upward for the foreseeable future. As Malcolm Wicks, the Minister of Science and Innovation, declared in the House of Commons: "It is a reasonable prediction to say that the era of cheap energy has gone for ever" (Hansard 23rd Jan 2008).

The capacity of renewable energy technologies to meet the domestic needs of the parish is currently limited. Most of these technologies are priced out of reach of most consumers. The payback for solar panel systems, for instance, can be as much as 30 years. As with wind turbines, the aesthetics of such systems are not always welcomed by residents.

However, there are measures that we can take as individuals that can reduce both the cost and the emissions produced. Up-to-date advice can be gained from the Energy Savings Trust. Collectively, the Parish Action Plan could include a sustainability study, including the current and future energy requirements of residents. Some 57% of respondents to the questionnaire highlighted a need for improved recycling in the village, particularly bottle collection, which suggests a majority of residents are in favour of measures to reduce impact of the adverse effects of our environment on village life.

The Northumberland Uplands Leader Programme

As part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), the regional development agency One North East has received a budget of £6.7 million per annum to deliver the socio-economic aspects. It has chosen to use the Leader approach that was successfully delivered by the North Northumberland Leader+ Programme as its main delivery vehicle. This was a competitive process and the Northumberland National Park Authority with the support of local partners successfully bid to administer a programme focused on the uplands of north and west Northumberland. In real terms this will mean £300,000 to £600,000

per year invested in the Upland area until 2013. There is a separate bid underway for a Northumberland Coast and Lowland Leader area, but it has been decided that Glanton will be included in the Upland area which stretches from Haltwhistle in the south to Carham in the north and almost to the outskirts of Morpeth in the east: an extensive area but relatively sparsely populated and seen as under-performing on all available measures.

A shadow Local Action Group (LAG) has been set up to produce a development framework for the fund and it is hoped that this will begin to deliver investment in the latter part of 2008. The programme is intended to be a community-led initiative with 50% of the LAG drawn from the private sector and the remaining members drawn from the public, community and voluntary sectors. The funding will be distributed amongst the following sectors:

- Farming and Agriculture
- Micro-Businesses
- Land Management
- Tourism Businesses
- Communities

All five of these sectors have potential benefits for Glanton but perhaps the latter sector will interest the Parish Council most, not least in the delivery of action points in this Plan.

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NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Farming

The farming landscape is dominated by improved and semi-improved grassland on the higher ground and generally arable on the lower ground. Breeding ewes and suckler cows and their followers graze the grassland. Horses are increasingly becoming a feature especially around the village. Arable is dominated by winter-drilled crops especially oilseed rape, wheat and barley. There is a small amount of spring-drilled cereal grown in the rotation with temporary grass and turnips.

The north-western corner of the parish falls away towards the River Breamish which is classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). In 2005, the River Breamish catchment was listed in the top 40 areas within England where there were problems with nutrients (especially phosphate) and run-off carrying silts. The Catchment Sensitive Farming Project (funded by Defra) is currently carrying out nutrient and soil management audits throughout the catchment as well as providing free soil analysis.

Landscape

The Glanton Parish lies within the Cheviot Fringe joint character area (JCA) described by the Countryside Commission in 2000. The parish lies on two fault lines that run east to west that has been shaped by glacial activity. One of the noticeable features is the lack of watercourses with the exception of the Shawdon Burn and its tributaries that run through Crawley Dene. The majority of the settlements lie on the upper parts of the slopes giving exceptional views over the Vale of Whittingham and the Breamish Valley. Woodlands are located either within Crawley Dene or adjacent to large houses within the parish e.g. woodlands around Glanton Pyke. There is a strong regular pattern to the fields that has remained fairly consistent since the First edition Ordnance Survey was carried out. Hedges generally bound these with a small number of mortared drystone walls around farm steadings. Hedgerow trees are scattered across the parish with the north west corner having the fewest trees. A small area of parkland can be found to the south of Glanton Pyke House.

Archaeology

People have lived in the Glanton Parish for thousands of years. There is an excellent account of the archaeological features of the Parish by John Swanson in Glanton: A Village Chronicle. A large number of the archaeological features have been lost to agricultural intensification over the centuries e.g. the Devil's Causeway Roman Road and the possible settlements south of Hemmel House. One of the noticeable features of the parish is the range of medieval agriculture features in the shape of ridge and furrow created by oxen (a fine example can be found on the right hand side of Whittingham Road as you are about to leave the parish). Other visible features are the Play Well on Playwell Lane, the enclosure to the east of Glanton House, the parkland on the south side of Glanton Pyke House and the series of quarries on Glanton Pyke.

Biodiversity

The Glanton Parish has very few 'natural' habitats and this is reflected in its limited species diversity.

Habitats

Statutory designations (e.g. SSSI): Crawley Dene Ancient woodland

National Biodiversity Action Plan habitats: Wet woodland (Crawley Dene)

Species-rich hedgerows: Playwell Lane, Cereal field margins, Ancient trees Glanton Pyke, Windy tree.

Regionally important habitats:

Lowland deciduous woodland, Rivers and streams, Upland acid grassland

Species

National Biodiversity Action Plan Species:

Brown hare
European otter
Pipistrelle bat
Red squirrel
Skylark
Linnet
Reed bunting
Spotted flycatcher
Tree sparrow
Grey partridge
Bullfinch
Song thrush

Regionally important species

Goshawk

Lapwing
Curlew

Locally important species

Barn owl
Quail
Redstart
Yellowhammer
Red kite
House sparrow
Starling
Swallow
House martin
Elm species

The survey of households revealed that 72% of people feed the local wild bird population. Nationally Important birds such as tree sparrows (which breed in suitable trees down the Playwell Lane), song thrushes and locally important species such as house sparrows and starlings all benefit from the sterling work of the residents of Glanton Parish.

One of the rarer species in the parish is the large elm on the school road. This tree is locally known as the 'windy tree' and so far has survived the blight of Dutch elm disease. There are other elms within the parish but not as old as this specimen that is least 150 years old.

Gardens and allotments

The fact that so many people feed the birds shows how important gardens are within the parish. Indeed, 75% of the people that responded to the questionnaire had gardens with a further 6% with patios or yards. Historically, many of these gardens would have grown vegetables and fruits. Today, vegetables are grown at 40% of properties but there are only 4 allotment 'type' gardens within the parish that are being used.

Climate change

It is unlikely that climate change will have a detrimental effect on landscape and the local archaeology. Increased periods of drought and/or prolonged periods of wet weather may see changes in crops and their rotations. However, the cost of oil (diesel and fertiliser) is likely have a greater impact on farming within the parish in the short to medium term. Recent work by Newcastle University would suggest that a number of farms within the Less Favoured Area within the North East are currently economically unviable.

The carbon footprint of farming is likely to come under greater scrutiny of the politicians and eurocrats. Natural England, Defra and the Country Land & Business Association ran a national pilot study of the carbon footprint of

different farming systems in Spring 2008. There is likely to be further progress of this issue in 2008/09.

Long term we are likely to see plant composition changes to woodlands and semi-natural grasslands as temperatures increase. Global warming will also have an impact on phenology thus affecting breeding success in species e.g. blue tits. Those species that have a northern bias (e.g. curlew) may be lost as breeding species. More southerly species may appear more often (e.g. quail). Over the last ten years populations of certain species of butterflies and dragonflies have moved further north (e.g. Essex skipper and migrant hawker dragonfly have recently established themselves in Northumberland). We may see these species and others in the parish in the next 10 – 20 years.

The next decade will see greater emphasis on our carbon footprint at all levels of society and government. There will be a greater need for the parish to reduce its carbon footprint e.g. more working from home, reliance on others within the community, recycling, 'green energy' and locally sourcing food including growing vegetables and fruits within our gardens.

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY SURVEY

1. Democracy

“It’s good that our village has an active Parish Council” (anon Glanton Resident)

Glanton Parish Council is the first tier of local government for the residents of the parish. Parish Council meetings are well attended and the parish council plays an active role in representing and consulting on issues that are pertinent to the parish environment and its residents.

Although not currently at full strength (10 councillors), the Parish Council has a broad age range from 30 to 70 years old and is representative of the varied age profile within the parish. The Council meets 6 times a year. Public questions are a standard item on the council’s agenda and residents are encouraged to attend meetings, should they wish. In addition, there is an annual village meeting, which provides an opportunity for the council to report in an open forum to the residents and provide an update of the year’s work. The Council aims to provide a legitimate voice for the residents of Glanton in matters such as building control, highway improvements, and local government regulated service provision.

The Glanton Parish Planning process has identified that our Council should remain active, democratic and representative of our community. Where possible, the age range within the Parish Council should reflect age and the demographic profile of the parish. There is also the aspiration to work more closely with the neighbouring parishes of Whittingham and Hedgeley. This is because greater community benefit can be gained by maximising social and community opportunities, funding and shared resources.

2. Provision of Information

“The village newsletter is great for telling you what’s going on” (anon Glanton Resident)

Communicating information about the village, within the village, is of benefit to established residents and those who are new to the village seeking information for the first time.

Glanton is fortunate to have a number of clubs and societies in addition to annual events such as the village show. Local services are important and those that exist in the village are supplemented by mobile shops and a library that visit the village during the week (see the survey on Access to Services for full details).

Changing work patterns mean that many people increasingly have to commute to and from a place of work and there is the overall perception that residents are not engaging with village life as previous generations did. Many older residents rely on external and mobile services coming into the village and we all benefit from social events that bring the village together as a whole. Events need to cater for residents of all ages. Services and general information must be available when they need them. An effective communication and community involvement strategy is essential to meet these challenges.

The village newsletter is currently published every other month and distributed to each household, thanks to the time and resources of its volunteer producers. The majority of residents see it as an invaluable means of finding out what is going on and it provides a range of opportunities to get involved in village life. There are several public notice-boards located at various places, however these are in a poor state of repair. There is a village web-site (<http://www.redlion.abel.co.uk/glanton/>) that is managed and resourced by a village resident, also on a voluntary basis. The village shop/post office, which is open mornings only, has a computerised “information” point that allows people to view local and county-wide information. There is also a free internet service which is popular with all ages.

The Glanton Parish Planning process has identified that residents appreciate and acknowledge the level of information that is being provided, but accessibility and sustainability of these services could be an issue in future.

3. The Residents

“Glanton folk are friendly and have good community spirit” (anon Glanton Resident)

Although location alone can provide a sense of place, it is the sense of community that shapes our villages, lives and aspirations.

Research completed as part of the planning process has indicated that Glanton has a similar age structure to many rural villages in north Northumberland (see the survey of the Economy for fuller details). The current demographic trend is towards an older community. Reasons for this include the increased life expectancy and ageing of the population generally. There is also in-migration of retirees, where people move to the village seeking a quite rural life post careers. There are important issues likely to affect the age profile of the village. These include: the local pattern of rapidly rising house prices; a high demand for rural properties; a shortage of affordable housing options; and a lack of easily accessible local services to support younger families, such as schools, leisure facilities, transport and shops. Despite this, Glanton does have a diverse, if currently ageing social profile that needs to be acknowledged and catered for. We refer you to the survey ‘Access to Services’ in the Parish Plan, which covers in greater detail the various services required to enable older residents to remain healthy and active. However, we must not forget that the social and

community needs of older residents and younger residents in other respects are equally important. The survey 'Access and Leisure' discusses in detail the situation regarding recreation. Glanton is fortunate to host a number of clubs and societies, where residents are encouraged to take part should they wish. The Women's Institute and the Leek Club are examples of those that thrive. There are also well-supported church activities and groups, such as the Bowls Club and the Pilots for young persons. Cubs and Scouts meet in nearby Whittingham drawing in young people from the surrounding parishes. A local history society meets there regularly too.

Isolation particularly in rural areas can be a problem for some people. Having a determined community that is prepared to volunteer and give their time and effort freely is essential. Residents have said that they value the events, clubs and societies that take place in the village, but finding out when and where, particularly for new people moving to the village can be a problem. Having a centralised information point, newsletter and web-site are seen as key to achieving this.

Over a number of years residents have looked at the options for a play area (see the survey on 'Access and Leisure'). They want somewhere safe, where children and young people can expend energy and have fun in the knowledge that they are not causing problems to neighbours and other village residents. This has never been achieved so far with the issue of finding a suitable location being main the stumbling block. Respondents to the Questionnaire re-affirm the need for this facility, while there is also an aspiration for a multi-aged facility capable of meeting the needs of a broad range of young people.

4. Community and Social Facilities in Glanton

"We need to utilise our community facilities or we will lose them" (anon Glanton Resident)

Glanton as a village is fortunate to have several venues suitable for community and social functions.

The Village Hall consists of a multi-level facility with a large hall area, stage, meeting rooms, kitchen and toilets. Approximately over the past 10 years, more than £30,000 has been spent updating, maintaining and enhancing this building to provide a venue for social and community events as well as private hire.

The United Reformed Church has a hall facility attached to its chapel and is situated almost adjacent to the village hall. This is a smaller facility than the village hall and is in the main used for church-related activities such as the Pilots youth group.

The Queen's Head, situated in the heart of the village, is the sole remaining public house within the parish. It is a free-house operated as a private business. This facility is seen as an important hub for social and community activities in addition to the village and church halls. The pub hosts a broad range of village

activities such as charity quiz nights, race nights and themed evenings, all of which are complemented by local real ales and light refreshments. The Queen's Head also acts as a meeting venue for several local clubs and societies. The large notice board within the bar area acts as a general information point for the village.

Building on what has been stated in the opening chapter (*Access and Leisure - Indoor leisure activities*), a significant problem over recent years has been attracting and making best use of the village hall. Management of the hall is currently administered through a volunteer 'Hall Committee'. Their remit is to maximise use of the hall and raise funds to support its running and maintenance costs. There are a number of statutory bodies and charitable trusts that will invest in rural village halls. However, there needs to be clear evidence of sustained use and a wide range of activities of benefit to the parish in order to attract external grants to assist with capital and revenue costs. It is important we do all we can in this respect.

Ironically, the greatest threat to the viability of Glanton village hall is the nearby church hall, which currently operates as a separate concern. The two halls have become individualised with each following its own course and each trying to attract independent usage. The Parish Plan consultation process indicates the need for careful consideration of the future viability, sustainability and development potential of both halls. We want to maximise the use of all village facilities and to attract opportunities for external investment and sustainable growth.

Action Plan

Access & Leisure		
1	Explore the possibility of creating a village play area	
2	Look to establish a community allotment scheme with village composting area and orchard	
3	Promote the need for greater public access to the Parish with those charged with access provision e.g. Natural England, Sustrans	
Access to Services		
1	Establish an information strategy within the Parish that is effective, up to date and accessible e.g. better notice-boards, newsletter and village web-site	
2	Enhance accessibility within the village by ensuring public areas offer safe, free passage e.g. pavements, lighting and seating etc..	
3	Work with our neighbouring parishes to develop an area-based solution to issues such as transport, care and services, including a First Responders service and Post Office service	
4	Bring young people into the decision-making process for village development	
Built Environment		
1	Enhance the village environment by sympathetic improvements that take into account the village's cultural and historic past e.g. period street signs, flower troughs, traditional directional signs etc...	
2	Working with the statutory agencies, improve visibility for vehicles accessing the A697 at the Bolton crossroads	
3	Preserve and promote the built history of the Parish, ensuring that this is not compromised, perhaps considering the use of tools such as village design statements	
4	To consult with agencies to improve parking provision within the village e.g. parking arrangement for south side Front Street.	

Local Economy		
1	Encourage household and local business partnerships within the Parish, promoting participation through information such as the newsletter and web-site etc....	
2	Look for opportunities that provide solutions for economic sustainability and growth within the village e.g. tourism	
3	Look for opportunities to establish and benefit from sustainable energy sources e.g. renewable, bio-mass, gas etc.. Look to Glanton becoming carbon neutral in the future	
Natural Environment		
1	Promote the provision and supply of high quality local produce e.g. organic box scheme etc...	
2	Carry out an archaeological audit of the Parish using local enthusiasts. Seek to promote the results to a wider audience e.g. a leaflet	
3	Restore important historical Parish features such as the Play Well etc...	
Social and Community		
1	Maximise the potential of Glanton Parish by engaging with all funding programmes and schemes	
2	Using the Parish Plan and working with the planning authority, ensure that future housing development is driven by need and requirement	
3	Working with the trustees, maximise the potential of the village halls and look at possible rationalisation, only where this enhances the viability of a centralised village community centre	
4	Work toward and embrace multi-parish developments that aim to resolve community issues and social exclusion	