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# Ulgham Village Survey 2025

## Summary of findings

- 173 - surveys distributed
- 89 - responses were received

### Questions:

- ***How many adults (persons 18 years of age or over) live in your household?***
- ***For those over 18 years old in your household, what is your employment status?***
  - 70% of households consist of 2 adults - 20% are single occupancy
  - 61% Are retired - 34% Employed/Self employed - the remaining 5% include individuals looking for work - volunteering - student

### Questions:

- ***How do you find out about the work of the Parish Council?***
- ***Would you benefit from a dedicated parish council facebook page?***

The majority of respondents reported the newsletter (48%), with others in order of use were:

- Noticeboard (17%) - Website (13%) - Facebook (12%) - attend monthly meeting (10%)

When asked about a dedicated Facebook page:

- 60% No (98 residents) versus 40% Yes (64 residents)

### Questions:

- ***Which of the following age range do you fall into?***
- ***How many children (under 18 years of age) are in your household?***

Significant proportion of respondents are aged 51 years and over (87%), with 44% aged over 70 years of age.

93% of households reported that no children under the age of 18 live in their household.

### Questions:

- ***How long has your household lived at your current address?***
- ***Has your household considered or currently considering relocating from Ulgham? If so, what would be the main reason?***
- 60% of households have lived at their current address for more than 10 years

- 22.5% indicated that they had considered relocating. The primary reasons were:  
Downsizing - Moving closer to family - Moving closer to facilities

***Questions relating to attendance of community facilities:***

***Women's Institute Hall*** - while the Women's Institute have a variety of activities and maintain their own records of bookings and attendance.

Survey responses indicate: 39.5% of residents attend the WI Hall occasionally, while 28% report that they never attend.

***St John the Baptist Church*** - similarly whilst the church has a regular congregation, survey data shows a large majority of residents use the facility infrequently or not at all.

- Weekly 7% - Occasionally 27% - Never 66%

***Children's play area/park*** - *How frequently do you make use of the play area/park?*

Use of the children's play area/park is limited among respondents.

- Weekly 16% - Monthly 10% - Occasionally 31% - Never 43%

*When asked specifically about **the tennis court**:*

Only 6% of respondents report occasional use with 94% stating they never use the facility.

***Cricket Club*** - *How often do you attend?*

Whilst the cricket club has active members and participates in a local league, survey responses suggest that most residents do not attend on a regular basis.

Only one respondent reported weekly attendance. Otherwise:

- 17% Occasionally - 55% Never - with 28% for social events only

***Library services. Questions***

- ***Which of the public library services does your household use?***
- ***Do you consider the provision of the mobile library services in the village important?***

The majority of respondents (76%) do not use any public library services while 20% identify Morpeth library as their library of choice.

Regarding the provision of mobile library services to the village: The majority (63%) consider the provision of mobile library service in the village important.

### ***Volunteering in the village:***

#### ***Question: Do you currently volunteer in any village groups?***

A significant number of residents actively volunteer within the village. The largest proportion with Ulgham Village Association (30 residents).

A small number of respondents volunteer

- with the Meadows (6 residents)
- participate in litter picking activities (11 residents)

#### ***Question:***

***Can you identify any activities, facilities or services your household would benefit from or would like to see in the village? (for example community allotment, potential alternative use of the tennis court area). Please specify for which age group and why this would be useful.***

(40 responses)

#### **Summary of Feedback in relation to: Tennis Court**

There were a few residents expressed interest in using the tennis court, but noted it has been unusable for many years due to its poor and unsafe surface. The current surface discourages use and is seen as a barrier to regular play. There is clear support for refurbishing the court, with suggestions including resurfacing, adapting it for dual use (such as tennis and bowls on astro turf), or considering alternatives such as padel tennis to increase usage.

#### **Summary of Feedback in relation to: Pub**

Survey responses show strong and consistent support for reopening The Forge Inn as a community-focused facility. With many respondents favouring a combined pub/restaurant or café/bistro model, but also including holiday rental and some farmers shop facilities. There is clear emphasis on creating an inclusive, informal community space for all age groups, from families and working residents to retired people.

Respondents highlighted the value of The Forge as a community hub, suggesting facilities such as a community centre feel, space for social activities and team games (e.g. darts, cards, dominoes), and opportunities for informal social engagement.

Several comments noted that reopening the pub would help strengthen community spirit and provide an important social asset for the village. Overall, respondents strongly support seeing The Forge “up and running” again as a vibrant, accessible community asset that serves a broad spectrum of the village.

### **Summary of Feedback in relation to: Shop**

A village shop was most often viewed as a complementary use, alongside a café, pub, or community space, strengthening The Forge's role as a community hub. Overall, respondents see shop provision as a valuable additional amenity that would improve day-to-day convenience for residents. There was particular interest in a small, locally focused shop, including suggestions for a farmers' shop or local produce outlet, with one response suggesting the inclusion of post office services.

### **Summary of Feedback in relation to: Allotment**

Respondents recognised allotments as a way to enjoy growing flowers, encourage healthy lifestyles, support local food production and promote social interaction, appealing to a range of age groups. Survey responses indicate support for the provision of community allotments, with suggestion that the inclusion of an orchard would be a valuable asset benefit the whole village. Overall, allotments were viewed as a positive addition to village facilities, complementing other community uses by promoting wellbeing and shared community activity.

### **Summary of Feedback in relation to: Play area, dogs outdoor facilities and children's activities.**

Respondents highlighted the need for dogs to be kept on leads in the play area, noting that existing signs are often ignored. The provision of a dog-walking field where dogs can be off-lead was suggested to balance safety and recreational needs for both residents and visitors. Additional signage regarding barbecue restrictions in the park and car park was also recommended. For recreation, one respondent suggested more outdoor gym equipment, and for children, proposals included a youth club and provisions for toddlers.

There is recognition of the strong community spirit and appreciation for village event efforts. Other suggestions were:

- Village book swap
- Hold Rendezvous once a month on a Saturday morning to allow working and school age residents to attend

### **Questions regarding Health Care:**

- *How easy is it for you to travel to (or attend) medical appointments?*
- *If you find it difficult to attend appointments, can you please tell us why?*
- *Please let us know your challenges accessing health care.*

The majority (94%) of residents do not experience difficulty in travelling to or attending medical appointments.

For those that do, please find a summary of responses below:

(25 responses)

**Transport & travel to appointments:**

- Many rely on lifts or taxis for hospital appointments, especially during treatment periods
- Public transport can be unreliable or impractical
- Taxi costs can be expensive
- Driving is possible for some but not always feasible when unwell
- One resident has asked if there was a potential for people to help with transport to appointments on occasion - due to taxis being unreliable? even if just to get you there

**Parking difficulties:** Car parks are often full, with long waits for spaces—even for Blue Badge holders—adding stress to appointments and prescription collection.

**Appointment access problems:** Difficulty obtaining GP and clinic appointments due to limited availability, non-user-friendly booking systems, online-only access, and triage by non-medical staff.

**Service coordination:** Frustration with unconnected services and challenges setting up or using required technology.

***Regarding Housing in the Village.***

***Question:***

- ***Do you think that more housing development should be carried out in Ulgham Parish***
- ***If you answered Yes above, what type of housing do you feel is most needed?***

A large majority (62%) indicated that no further development is needed, while 23% were unsure.

Among those who felt that more housing is required, the types of housing identified as most needed were:

- Affordable houses to purchase, the most strongly supported option (40%)
- Bungalows, the second most popular choice (28%)

***Questions around Schools:***

- ***If you have children of school age, which school do they attend?***
- ***Was this your preferred choice?***
- ***How does your child/children travel to school?***

The findings suggest that families are largely satisfied with school placement, but that private car travel is the predominant mode of commuting:

- All children attended their preferred choice of school
- 80% travelled by Private car

### ***The Forge Inn***

#### ***Questions:***

- ***Considering the site of the The Forge Inn: The parish council believe retaining the asset as a pub/community facility will benefit our village in many ways. However we do recognise it is becoming increasingly unsightly. How do you see the site benefiting the village most?***
- ***If you answered 'Other' above regarding The Forge Inn, or if you would like to share your thoughts and concerns please tell us more...***

Acknowledging that multiple responses were allowed, the survey results indicate that the majority of residents wish to retain the premises in a community-focused or hospitality role. Demonstrating strong local support for keeping The Forge Inn as a village asset, as a pub/restaurant/multi-use community hub rather than redevelopment for housing.

- (19%) Large Pub/Restaurant
- (47%) Community Pub/Cafe/Shop
- (30%) Split site - approximately maintaining 50%
- (4%) All housing

Summary of Comments from “If you answered 'Other' above regarding The Forge Inn, or if you would like to share your thoughts and concerns please tell us more... “

(22 responses)

It is felt that The Forge Inn is the main issue within the village and that UCBS and the Parish Council should continue leading efforts to retain The Forge Inn as an asset to the village. However, the need for better communication was highlighted to stop people from thinking it has ‘gone off the radar’.

Residents believe that losing the pub to redevelopment would represent a serious and irreversible loss, fundamentally changing the nature of the village in a negative way. The state of the premises is described as unsightly and ‘spoils our village’, and there is frustration at the lack of progress and current stalemate which is damaging to the village suggesting a swift resolution would deliver the greatest benefit, regardless of the final outcome.

A widely held view is that The Forge Inn should be retained as a community-focused pub/hub, updated for modern use whilst retaining a substantial portion of the old building for historic purposes.

Many residents believe The Forge has significant potential if returned to use broadly as it was around ten years ago, particularly as a pub and restaurant. Suggested uses also included:

- A community pub
- Café
- Village shop
- A social and accessible meeting space
- A small arts or cultural venue for events and exhibitions
- A holiday let to provide supplementary income
- One respondent suggested the building could be attractive as a film location.

There was a concern raised in that multiple uses could dilute the identity of the premises and reduce its chances of success and one resident questioned the need for a village pub. Others questioned whether the village population would be sufficient to sustain certain uses, particularly a village shop.

A small number proposed residential development of the site in the form of:

- Large family homes to encourage families to relocate to Ulgham
- Social housing for young families who cannot afford executive housing
- Single story development

However the overwhelming majority of responses strongly oppose redevelopment of the site for housing. Commonly expressed views include:

- Total opposition to demolition and replacement with housing
- Strong preference for retaining a substantial proportion of the existing building for historical and visual reasons
- Belief that the village needs an 'open', shared focal point rather than additional housing
- Perception that further housing is unnecessary, given existing provision in the area

In summary, while opinions differ on the best long-term use of The Forge Inn, there is strong consensus that:

- the prolonged delay is harmful to the village
- a community-focused solution is strongly preferred
- large-scale development is widely opposed

One further comment: 'to consider listing the forge to protect the history of one of the oldest buildings within the village'

### ***Crime in the village.***

#### **Questions:**

- ***Has any member of your household been a victim of crime in Ulgham in the last 12 months?***
- ***If you answered Yes above, please identify the type of crime.***

The survey indicates 7% of residents reported being a victim of crime in Ulgham over the past 12 months.

The type of crime identified included: Deliberate damage to property - poaching - anti-social behaviour

One resident wrote 'drug dealers in the children's play area delivering the villagers drug orders'.

### ***Speeding in the village.***

#### **Questions:**

- ***Do you consider there is a problem with traffic speeding through the village?***
- ***If you answered yes above, what measures would you welcome to reduce speeding?***

The majority of residents perceive traffic speeding as a problem within the village, with 67% confirming concerns around vehicles speeding.

(54 responses)

Whilst some residents feel speed of some traffic along the straight stretch of the main road is unacceptable at times, with vehicles regularly speeding through the village at all hours, day and night, although particularly at night, one resident felt that speeding has reduced, stating this may be due to the flashing speed signs at both ends of the village and more prominent maximum speed signage at the village entrances. Another resident stated that, to their knowledge, there has not been an accident in which speed was a factor in living memory.

Residents are concerned about the speed and noise of police and emergency vehicles passing through the village, particularly overnight between 10pm and 6am. Vehicles are often observed travelling at speed with blue lights and sirens activated during the early hours. While residents recognise the need for emergency vehicles to respond quickly, there is concern that the level of noise generated overnight is often unnecessary and disruptive.

Residents expressed genuine concerns for safety and made the following requests:

- Provision of a safe crossing place to enable pedestrians to cross the road safely

- Parking outside the WI hall felt to be problematic and potentially dangerous, one resident proposed a parking ban outside the W I Hall.
- Additional signage at both ends of the village requesting drivers to slow down, highlighting red squirrels in the area and children playing
- Ulgham Grange specific:
  - Introduction of a 40mph buffer zone into Ulgham Grange from the A1068 and Linton Road.
  - Concerns that too many large lorries use Ulgham Grange

Other traffic calming suggestions, in order of numbers of requests:

- Chicane
- Reduce speed limit to 20mph
- Speed bumps
- Speed camera
- Road narrowing as in Longirst
- Community speed watch scheme
- Rumble strips

One resident specifically opposed the use of speed bumps whilst another felt they are ineffective as they encourage acceleration in between bumps, resulting in increased noise. Regarding speed calming measures, one resident feels they are not needed and should not be introduced they just encourage accidents, noting Longirst

### ***Footpaths and rights of way.***

#### ***Questions:***

- ***What do you think of the public footpaths/rights of way through and around Ulgham?***
- ***Do you have any comments to make on public footpaths/rights of way?***

The majority consider the condition of public footpaths/rights of way are 'fair' (41%), with 21% stating 'poor'.

(49 responses)

#### **Footpaths**

Many footpaths are too narrow due to overgrown hedges and vegetation encroaching beyond property boundaries. In places, this forces pedestrians onto the road, reduces visibility at junctions and corners, and makes access difficult for wheelchair users and those with mobility aids. Uneven surfaces, raised kerbs, loose or cracked paving stones and fallen leaves create additional trip and slip hazards, particularly on the Croft Estate, where tree roots have damaged paths. While the overall condition of footpaths is

generally good, regular hedge cutting, removal of tree stumps, and improved maintenance are needed to keep routes safe and accessible. There is no footpath along roadsides leaving the village in either direction.

### **Rights of Way**

Many public rights of way are poorly signed, overgrown, or inaccessible, making routes unclear and discouraging use, stressful for walkers unsure if they have strayed onto private land. This is particularly problematic for newcomers. Some paths have become impassable due to vegetation, damaged bridges or stiles, and lack of maintenance, with several traditional routes appearing to have been lost over time. Improved signage, regular clearance, repair of structures, and better enforcement of landowner responsibilities are needed to keep rights of way safe, accessible, and clearly defined.

Several traditional footpaths appear to have fallen out of use or been lost over time due to lack of maintenance and enforcement. Landowners are not consistently maintaining rights of way across their land, resulting in blocked access, unclear routes across fields, and unsafe conditions. Improved signage, regular clearance, repair of bridges and stiles, and better protection from misuse (including motorbikes on footpaths and bridleways) are needed to make public rights of way safe, accessible, and clearly identifiable.

Residents feel the County Council does a poor job of maintaining footpaths and often responds inadequately, or not at all, when issues are reported. More frequent sweeping to remove leaves and debris, along with regular clearing of gutters and drains is needed.

### ***Parking in the village.***

#### ***Questions:***

- ***Do you consider that parking is a problem in the Village?***
- ***If you answered yes to the parking questions, can you please provide more details.***

The large majority (78%) do not consider parking to be a problem within Ulgham.

Summary of parking comments can be found below:

(24 Responses)

For properties that are not on the main road, parking is less of a problem, however for those directly on the B1337, it is more problematic. Numerous residents mentioned that parking outside the WI Hall is a concern, especially during events. Parked vehicles can obstruct the bus stop, restrict visibility around a nearby bend, disrupt traffic flow, and create near-miss situations. This is made worse by speeding traffic, limited off-road parking, and occasional double parking or parking too close to junctions and corners.

While parking is less problematic away from the main road, church, and village events highlight the lack of suitable parking provision. The only off road parking is at the park. A larger car park would be good for visitors with the carpark signposted adequately.

### ***Local Bus service.***

#### ***Questions:***

- ***Do you use the local bus service?***
- ***Do you use a reliable phone 'app' to track the bus? which one? Please provide any other comments you may have regarding the local bus service.***

82% of residents who use the local bus service were happy with the service.

Mobile applications used are:

Arriva - Google maps - [bustimes.org](http://bustimes.org) - trackmybus - [bus.org](http://bus.org)

(56 responses)

Views on the bus service are mixed. Some residents value the service for its affordability, weekend operation, and early morning and late-night coverage, however there is no service through Ulgham Grange. Many report that buses are infrequent and unreliable, with cancellations, late running, and occasional early departures causing missed services. One bus per hour is inconvenient for regular users, and real-time information can be difficult to access or use.

### ***Street lighting.***

#### ***Questions:***

- ***Do you feel there is adequate street lighting through the village?***
- ***If you answered No above, please provide further information.***

78% of respondents felt there is adequate lighting through the village.

Comments are summarised below:

(26 responses)

The general feeling is lighting is low level and too spaced out, providing inadequate illumination for walking anywhere after dark. Several street lights, particularly along the main road are obstructed by overgrown trees and hedges, reducing their effectiveness.

- The most common areas highlighted for poor lighting are:
- The end of the park on Ulgham Lane
- Ulgham lane to the cricket pitch
- Path from The Croft to the bus stop (the cut-through near the WI Hall)
- Church end of the village
- Opposite Ulgham Hall
- From the WI Hall to the west end of the village

There were comments regarding LED lights:

- the lighting is insufficient following introduction of LED's
- LED lights do not provide adequate light spread

Since the introduction of this style of lights, sections of the main road are poorly illuminated and make walking around the village at night hazardous.

Other comments:

- Ulgham Grange currently has no street lighting.
- Residents advise they need to carry torches
- Too much lighting in my area of the village
- street lighting could be more environmentally focused ie downlight so we can appreciate dark skies

### ***Electric Vehicle (EV) charging.***

#### ***Questions:***

- ***Do you feel the village should provide public charging facility/facilities for electric vehicles visiting or passing through our village?***
- ***Please use this space for your comments on the provision of EV charging in the village.***

The majority of respondents do not feel that a public EV charger facility is needed in the village: No 47% - Yes - 17% - Not sure 36%

Other comments were:

(31 Responses)

Opinions on providing EV charging points in the village are mixed. The majority suggested that, if implemented, the most suitable locations would be the Forge (if redeveloped as a pub or commercial enterprise) or secondly the park/playing field car park.

Others question the value to the village, citing limited parking, high installation costs, safety concerns, environmental impacts, and the availability of charging elsewhere.

Overall, support is conditional on linking provision to a commercial or community facility rather than purely as a village-wide service.

## ***Dogs in our village.***

### **Questions:**

- ***Does your household own a dog?***
- ***If you answered Yes above, does your household feel the village offers sufficient and appropriate space to exercise your dog/s?***
- ***If you answered No above, what further facility would you desire?***
- ***Do you think another dog 'waste' bin is needed?***
- ***If you answered Yes to another dog waste bin, please provide details of where it/they should be located?***

37% of households own at least one dog. Among dog-owning households, the majority (85%) feel that the village offers sufficient and appropriate space to exercise their dogs.

Responses were more evenly split when asked about additional dog bins, 45% Yes versus 55% No.

Summary of question relating to appropriate space to exercise  
(14 Responses)

Residents highlighted a need for responsible off-lead dog exercising in secure, enclosed areas. Whilst it was acknowledged there are plenty of footpaths around the village, dogs often must be kept on leads, limiting their exercise. A dedicated, fenced field for off-lead walking would be highly valued, with one respondent stated they currently drive at least 30mins daily to exercise their dog. Conversely some residents would prefer dog-free areas, including the playing field.

Summary of question relating to dog bins  
(26 Responses)

Residents acknowledged that dog owners should be reminded to dispose of bagged dog waste responsibly. Additional dog bins were requested at several locations, with popular sites including:

- Village centre and main paths: Near the church / cemetery, Manor Court, The Croft, Ulgham Lane, Playing fielding adjacent to all bus stops
- Meadows and footpaths: Entrance to Ulgham Meadow and Wood, outside the meadows at the top of steps
- Ulgham Park Farm Lane (Lower Lyn?): End of the tarmac lane, top of the hill, village end of the road, further up toward open cast, near the ford

Reinstating the dog bin at the top of Park Road was also suggested as the current position presents a hazard to users.

## ***Question: What do you value most about our village?***

**(83 responses)**

Residents highly value community spirit, friendliness, peace, rural setting, and location. They appreciate that Ulgham is small, safe, and welcoming, with opportunities for social activities without being overdeveloped. Access to countryside and nearby towns is also a major plus, while maintaining a quiet, scenic environment.

**Sense of Community** - this is by far the most frequently mentioned aspect:

- Friendly, helpful, caring neighbours
- Strong community spirit, people looking out for one another
- Community groups and activities
- Villagers coming together in times of need
- A safe, secure, and welcoming environment

Quotes:

“A strong community in a beautiful rural setting with a sense of belonging”

“The community spirit and incredible effort that a lot of villagers make to bring everyone together”

## **Peace, Quiet and Rural Character**

- A quiet friendly village with a secure feeling and low crime rates
- Quiet village atmosphere, away from busy roads
- Pretty village, a nice place to live
- Open spaces, wildlife, and dark skies
- Feeling of freedom and space

Quotes:

“Peace and quiet but easy access to all that Northumberland offers”

“The complete silence at night”

“The rural location, the small amount of housing, the feel of openness to the countryside”

## **Location and Accessibility**

- Proximity to towns, and cities (Morpeth, Alnwick, Ashington, Newcastle)
- Access to footpaths and walking areas
- Easy access to countryside walks and the beach
- Convenience of transport (A1, public transport)

Quotes:

“A village well-located in a great county”

“Ulgham’s semi-rural location and easy access to the countryside walks”

## **Amenities and Facilities**

- The size, so far, it has not outgrown itself
- There is desire for a pub, shop, or local produce outlet.

- Activities for all ages: yoga, boules, dance, cricket, WI events

Quotes:

“Ulgham Meadows is lovely and a perfect asset to the village”

“Plenty of activities for those that want them”

### **Safety and Cleanliness**

- Low crime, well-kept surroundings, minimal antisocial behaviour
- Pride in the village environment and public spaces

Quotes:

“No graffiti, late night rowdy behaviour, and good neighbours”

“Environs are tidy”

### **Village Size and Character**

- Small size is appreciated; residents want it to remain manageable and not overdeveloped
- A “proper village” feel is highly valued

Quotes:

“The size (keep it small!)”

“It’s a village and should stay one”

***Question: If you have any further comments on any of the previous questions, or would like to raise any issue that you feel has not been covered, any improvements you would like to see in the village? please provide details below:***

(43 responses)

Residents appreciate the opportunity to share views and look forward to seeing the results in due course. Preference is to maintain the status quo, while it may seem unexciting, this is very much part of the village appeal for some residents.

Working with the Parish Council:

- Encouraging a Parish Council along with UCBS to reflect the village community as a whole, particularly in relation to the site of The Forge Inn
- Ongoing improvements to communication between the Parish Council and residents

Although this final section repeats some answers already addressed, the comments have been grouped under subheadings and summarised below.

### **The Forge Inn**

- Many feel that re-opening The Forge Inn as a community facility would greatly enhance village life, potentially making Ulgham ‘almost perfect’
- ‘Pub is a great miss’

- A local convenience store would be a great plus
- The village has no facilities apart from the WI Hall and the church, it would be great to have a shop, pub and cafe for all residents
- Consideration should be given to listing The Forge to protect the history of one of the village's oldest buildings
- The derelict state of the Forge site is currently an eyesore and negatively impacts the village's appearance and reputation
- Parking at the site must be carefully managed to avoid overflow onto the main road
- Timely redevelopment is important, acknowledging the stalemate - years have been spent trying to secure a pub, but resolution is now the priority
- One resident suggests giving up 'the dream' and let the site make way for a small development
- Suggestion for UCBS:
  - ensure website is up-to-date
  - signs at both ends of the village are looking 'tatty'

### **Further Residential development**

Concerns regarding further development:

- We currently do not have the facilities to support an increase in population
- There are lots of developments outside village, closer to shops and schools
- While not entirely against limited development - definitely NOT at The Forge public house
- When we moved here as we were told that no additional houses would be built

### **Dogs**

- Dogs barking is an issue
- Dogs running off lead around park / cricket pitch is a concern.
- Dogs to be kept on leads in the park, especially near the children's play area, football and cricket pitch

### **Tennis court**

- Consider making the tennis court dual use for pickle ball and tennis
- Needs resurfacing
- Consider picket ball court/club in WI, just need a net and markings on the floor

### **Ulgham Lane**

Many residents raises concerns about the poor state of the lane, with suggestions that either the South Croft developer or the local council ensure it is property reinstated following completion of the new-build housing.

## **Speeding**

Whilst speeding remains a serious concern for some - 'It is not good enough to wait until there is an accident before acting'.

Others feel that speed limits around the village are fine - 'Speed calming measures are not needed and should not be introduced, they just encourage accidents, see Longhirst'.

## **Regarding public Transport**

- A more regular bus service - say on the half hour would be very helpful
- We would also welcome improvements to the cleanliness of the bus shelters

## **Help with Transport**

One resident suggested it would be helpful to know who in the community could occasionally assist with transport to appointments, even just to get people there, as taxis have not always been reliable.

## **Footpaths and rights of way**

- Better upkeep and signposting of footpaths would help newer residents find their way around local countryside walks
- Trees/hedges along lane do not get cut back by certain land owners

## **Ulgham Grange**

Ulgham Grange is sometimes overlooked in village matters. Key concerns include:

- Traffic - Large vehicles use the lane as a short cut to Widdrington Station. The lane is slippery at the ford, creating hazards for pedestrians, cyclists, motorbikes and horse riders. Trees need clearing on the ford to help with line of sight both ways. Grass at end of Ulgham Grange where it joins main road at Church needs to be cut, particularly in summer to increase visibility
- There are six residents under 18 year olds living in Ulgham Grange, but the village has no clubs or activities, apart from the occasional event such as the duck race
- Winter safety - The lane is not gritted in winter. There are two salt boxes beside the ford but nothing after that either way. There are roughly 20 properties that rely on this lane for access - whilst occasional grit passes (spreading) have been made they are insufficient

## **Schools**

- The village has seen a significant reduction in families with school-aged children, which appears to be due to limited school places and lack of transport options. The current school boundaries should be reviewed, and the provision of school transport reconsidered by NCC

- It should also be clarified that children with Morpeth addresses can follow the natural progression to Morpeth schools (first, middle, and high), as this is currently unclear
- Greater access to Morpeth schools could bring more young families to the village

### **Meadows**

Whilst many residents support The Meadows, one resident feels it is an unreasonable use of the parishioner's council tax money.

- The site is not all-inclusive due to its limited access for people and machinery needed to maintain the walkways and meadow land.
- Overgrown undergrowth also reduces visibility, creating potential risks for people and dogs.

### **Additional responses that do not fit in any of the above sections:**

- Council/highways - signs not collected after work completed, left to litter the verge
- Do NOT understand why the PC thinks roaming goats is NOT their concern
- The firework display should consider using silent fireworks. The suffering caused to animals is significant
- Too many poachers, kids on motorbikes, not enough police
- Trees with preservation orders to be inspected and maintained on a regular basis to stop them becoming a real problem in adverse weather conditions
- Improved street lighting
- It can sometimes be hard to get involved in village activities if you're not retired, as it would necessitate taking time off work since a lot seem to take place during 'office hours'
- Some of the households in the village are disadvantaged regarding the lack of full fibre broadband rollout. This issue is becoming an increasing concern in light of the copper line switch off in January 2027. A rushed implementation could potentially lead to the use of unsightly telegraph poles as a solution and not underground ducts as the end date draws closer