

PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2026

ANNUAL REPORT for the 12 months ending 31st March 2026



SUMMARY AND THANKS

It has been another very busy year for Longhoughton Parish Council (LPC). This report illustrates the range of activities and projects that Councillors are developing and implementing to meet the needs of residents and deal with changes in the economy and environment.

- Ten full LPC meetings were held during the year and many hours outside meetings
- It is very appropriate to thank the whole Council for their dedication and commitment in serving the community and giving their time as volunteers
- Following the elections in May 2025, the following were elected unopposed: Peter Bromley, Carole Green, Hannah Horsley, Adrian Hinchcliffe and Peter McEwen. Subsequently, the following residents were co-opted: Ian Knox, Mary Calum, Michael Nichols and Laura Rowberry. Bryan Ellis and Chris Thomas stepped down at the election and we sincerely thank them for their exceptional service to the community, especially Bryan, who is a previous Chair of the Council
- Thanks are also due to Elizabeth Taylor, the Clerk to the Council, Councillor Wendy Pattison, and Laura Rowberry, who also acts as the representative of the RAF
- It is also appropriate to thank all the people in the community who give their time in helping to run community groups, those who deliver Newsletter and others who give their time supporting the community in various ways

What Residents Paid for the Parish Council Services

£43.81 for the year for each household at the Band D level. In 2026/27 this will increase to £45.91

Parish Council Accounts for the Year Ending 31 March 2026

Income	£32,436 of which the Precept was £29,478 (91%).
Expenditure	£28,843.
Cash in the Bank	£25,098. These are reserves to cover capital and revenue needs going forward.

Communications with Residents

- The popular eight-page Community Newsletter was issued every two months. The April 2026 Newsletter was the 50th edition and included a celebratory supplement and competitions.
- Noticeboards are maintained at Howick, Boulmer and in Longhoughton outside the Co-op and the Running Fox.
- Facebook
- Two websites:

General information website: <https://longhoughton-pc.gov.uk>. This is a new website.

Neighbourhood Plan website: www.longhoughtonndp.co.uk

- All Councillors have new email address that will be published in the Newsletter.

Routine Business

Throughout the year, LPC conducted the following routine business:

- Considering and commenting on 15 planning applications
- Dealing with various incoming consultations and correspondence
- Dealing with queries, complaints and requests from residents
- Arranging services and paying invoices
- Financial grants to community organisations, of which £6,656 were awarded. This includes a substantial grant to each of the three village halls to assist with covering costs and a grant to Longhoughton Church
- Requests for services supplied by the County Council and other agencies
- Liaison with Northumberland County Council and receiving monthly reports from Councillor Pattison

Key projects and other issues dealt with

The Neighbourhood Plan was approved at a Referendum. After eight years in preparation and many consultations, the Longhoughton, Boulmer and Howick Neighbourhood Plan was approved by a referendum held on 22nd January 2026. 293 residents voted. 244 (83.3%) were in favour of the Plan and 49 were against. The Plan was adopted by the County Council in February and has now become part of the planning requirements. The Parish Council is now working on the implementation of the Plan.

Boulmer Beach Car Park. Following long period of planning and negotiations, the County Council took over the lease for Boulmer Beach Car Park commencing in April 2026. Whilst parking charges will be introduced from 9.00am to 5.00pm each day and the County Council will now be responsible for maintaining the car park.

Longhoughton Quarry Proposed Extension. A planning application for the extension of the quarry was received in November 2025. The Parish Council held a public meeting on 4th December to listen to the views of residents. The Parish Council also engaged an experienced planning consultant to help formulate a response. The response raised many points of concern, particularly regarding the impact of blasting vibration on houses, primarily on the west side of Longhoughton. Overall, the Parish Council objected to the application. It is expected that the County Council will decide upon the application later in the year.

Liaison Arrangements with Longhoughton Quarry. The liaison meetings with Longhoughton Quarry have been very useful for discussing issues such as vibration from blasting and mud on the public road from vehicles emerging from the quarry. A representative of the independent Monitoring Authority attends these meetings and has stated that the Quarry is operating within the guidelines set by the Planning Regulations. Louise Dawson stepped down from the Group. Ella Brown and Rob Wildsmith joined the Group as residents.

Emergency Plan for the Parish. Work has started on putting together an Emergency Plan for the Parish to set out arrangements for dealing with the disruption from storms and flooding, particularly where the electricity supply is lost. In these circumstances, communications are one of the main issues to improve along with the resilience of the Community and Sports Centre in Longhoughton, for it to act as an Emergency Centre.

Liaison with Longhoughton Church. Meetings have been held with representatives of Longhoughton Church and other interested parties to consider ways in which the Church can be more integrated into the Longhoughton community, particularly from a sustainability point of view. A number of possible projects have been identified for wider consideration.

Longhoughton Community Gardeners. The Parish Council has encouraged the Community Gardeners to continue their activities in Longhoughton, which significantly improves the quality and appearance of the village. The planters and seats established by the Group around the village have been transferred to the Parish Council as community assets and for insurance cover.

Liaison arrangements with Northumbria Police. These meetings have been useful to have a two-way dialogue on any issues in the Parish. Over the last year, the main issue has been the excessive speed of vehicles in the restricted speed areas in Longhoughton and Boulmer and the role of the Speedwatch Team.

Liaison Arrangements with RAF Boulmer. Regular meetings have taken place with the Base Commander and are very useful.

Local Transport Plan Requests. Each year, we can submit our priority schemes to the County Council for safety improvements, but within the Plan, the County Council only undertake those which they consider to be an absolute priority across the County. This year, we submitted for action the following: the junction of Boulmer Road and North End in Longhoughton, which is very dangerous when turning right out of Boulmer Road, also the right turn off the B1339 onto the road to Howick and Howick Hall, which is approximately one mile north of Longhoughton.



Children having great fun on the Assault Course at the Fete.



The 11 to 16 year old group taking part in a weekly kickabout.

Road Conditions and Potholes. This is a common topic at Parish Council meetings. Some roads are much worse than others. The road through the trees to Howick, around the turn off for Redsteads Farm, is awful, as is the road through Howick Village. Numerous complaints have been received about these areas. We encourage residents to report potholes via 'FixMyStreet'. Lacey Street in Longhoughton has also had an awful problem with the grass verge due to vehicle parking on the verge and destroying it.

Vehicle Speed Measurement and Warning. A machine measuring the speed of vehicles as they enter the Longhoughton 30mph zone at Longbank Farm, has been installed. This is known to be an area for speeding, and now that there are more people living at the Farm complex, there is a great risk of accidents.

Boulmer Road, Longhoughton Street Lighting. A request has been made to the Street Lighting Authority to place new streetlights in a 300 metre gap on Boulmer Road, which does not have any lights. This request has been supported by RAF Boulmer.

School Crossing Patrol Officer for Longhoughton. There is a need for this role to help children and parents cross the B1339 on their way to and from the Primary School. The post is to be resurrected, and a new Crossing Officer appointed.

Alnwick Medical Group Flu and COVID Inoculations. AMG has given notice that they are to discontinue giving flu and COVID jabs in Longhoughton. We are in contact with another pharmacist to see if this service can be continued in the Village.

NHS Health Checks in Longhoughton. These have been held approximately quarterly but restricted to people between the ages of 40 and 74.

Prescription Pick up in Longhoughton. The facility to pick up repeat prescriptions in Longhoughton has continued throughout the year, with financial assistance from the Parish Council.

Longhoughton Wellbeing Walks. These have been held each Wednesday throughout the year, starting from the Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre. The walks are for one hour around Longhoughton and led by trained local people. There are no charges, and they are open to anyone.

Longhoughton Scouts Support. Longhoughton Scouts were given financial help during the year and assistance to find residents who are willing to help the Scouts put on a wide range of activities for young people.

King's Award for Voluntary Service. We were delighted that the Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre received this prestigious award and that the Award recognised Longhoughton Parish Council as one of three key partners. Longhoughton is proud to have such a wonderful group of volunteers.

The bridge over the Stamford Burn at Little Mill. This bridge, which is on a public footpath, is suffering from age and wood rot and is dangerous for walkers to cross, especially in spate conditions. Howick Estates has agreed to look at the bridge with a view to restoring it to a safe condition.



The Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland awarding the King's Award for Voluntary Service



Residents Enjoying Christmas Lunch cooked by the Community Lunch volunteers.

Proposed new car park next to Boulmer Memorial Hall. This project, which has been under discussion since 2017, came to an end earlier in 2026 when the County Council withdrew support for the planning application which they were preparing. This followed a meeting involving Parish Councillors and representatives of Boulmer Memorial Hall. This decision leaves the Memorial Hall without a car park, and the Trustees are concerned that this may impact on the sustainability of the Hall. It also puts into jeopardy the plan to restrict vehicle parking on the village street.

Meeting with David Smith MP. This meeting took place on 13th March 2026 and was very useful.

Boulmer Wildflower Meadow. Howick Estates came to our rescue when our long-standing meadow grass cutting contractor could not do the job this year.

Change to Digital Landlines. Guidance was received for the changeover to digital landlines, and especially for those residents who are dependent upon them for emergency contact.

Longhoughton Community Fete. The Fete was again supported financially, and many of the Councillors were involved in the Organising Committee and on the day. In 2026, the event which is on Saturday 11th July, will be called the 'Longhoughton Feast' a title that was used many years ago.

Northumberland Coast National Landscape Travel and Access Plan. A public meeting was held early in the year. Many good ideas were put forward and a common theme was the need for public toilets in Longhoughton.

Chancel Place Trees. Unfinished planning work on the Chancel Place estate became an ongoing problem, taking up much time. It was resolved by the involvement of the Director of Planning of the County Council.

Parish Council Ways of Working. After the elections in May 2025, and the approval of the Neighbourhood Plan, several Councillors are taking on projects which will ensure more rapid progress. Climate change and the development of a Youth Strategy for the Parish are amongst the projects being undertaken.

Worm digging at Boulmer Haven. Following three representations the sustainability of worm digging at Boulmer Haven has been questioned. This has been referred to NIFCA (the responsible Authority). Over the last year they have carried out intertidal patrols to observe the number of worm diggers. The observations from these patrols, when compared to the last ten years, show that the level of activity is about average. They have concluded that the level of worm digging is not likely to have any significant adverse effects.

Gifts to people in need at Christmas. 62 gifts were given to people who have poor health, are bereaved or living alone.

Burnside One Way. Regrettably, some motorists continue to drive the wrong way up the street.

Dog Poo at Boulmer and Longhoughton. Complaints received about dog poo being left by dog owners at Boulmer and Longhoughton. Information was put in the Newsletter. All dog owners are asked to pick up after their dogs. Fines of up to £1,000 can be imposed for failing to pick up anywhere in the open air.



The Harley Davison Group visit Longhoughton.

Governance Review for Town and Parish Councils. We responded to a consultation being conducted by the County Council on the structure and appropriateness of Parish Councils.

St John Ambulance Campaign to spread First Aid skills to residents. We were delighted for Longhoughton to be selected as the first village for first aid skills to be taught to residents. The training took place in February when 28 residents completed the training.

