



Allendale Parish Council Summer 2026 update

Allendale village parking survey: what's new?

Last autumn, over 250 people participated in our survey regarding parking on Allendale's village green - of which the tarmacked 'Square' in the central part of the village forms a main part.

Allendale Parish Council (APC) was keen to hear from you regarding any issues. Based on your feedback, we then committed to exploring options to address any challenges that you identified.

Councillors started following up immediately after the survey. It's fair to say that dealing with official bodies takes time, but we're pleased to report that Allendale's follow-up has resulted in positive progress. It's time that we gave you an update.

What was your feedback?

You may recall that:

- 259 responses were received; 92% of respondents lived or worked in the parish;
- 65.6% experienced some difficulty in finding parking when they needed it;
- 53% felt the parking areas were sufficient but could be better managed; and,
- 71.7% felt certain categories of vehicles should be restricted from long-term parking.

More information about the survey is available from Allendale Parish Council.

Addressing your concerns

A working group of four parish councillors have been conducting 'follow up' and have reported back to the full council each month. The council's aim has been to respect the views of the majority of survey participants whilst taking into account the views of the sizeable minority. The following points reflect our progress.

SORN vehicles

- Northumbria Police confirmed that unroadworthy vehicles and those registered as 'off the road' could **not be parked on public highways**, and may not be parked on the village green without APC permission;
- the community policeman has provided the parish council with support;
- the parish council posted recommended notices on relevant vehicles; and,
- those vehicles have been **removed from the village green**.

Learning from other local parish councils

- Allendale councillors have reached out to **other local Northumberland parish councils**; these villages face similar challenges around ensuring safe and adequate parking for local people and visitors within a historic village;
- villages have needed to create **designated parking areas** to address those challenges; and,
- Allendale parish council will consider that advice and experience.

Liaising with Northumberland County Council (NCC)

- Allendale's working group met representatives from NCC - Paul Jones and Neil Snowden - in Allendale at the end of June; and,
- NCC were **very positive** about Allendale having previously conducted a local stakeholder survey.
- The meeting addressed two main issues;
 - a) existing **Northumberland regulations** re. parking on highways/ pavements; and,
 - b) **NCC's professional advice** on managing and regulating parking on village greens.
- **Highways and pavements:**
 - NCC confirmed that parking on **public highways and obstructions on pavements** are matters for the NCC and the police, not the parish council.
- **Village green areas:**
 - NCC advise that management of **village green parking** is a matter for Allendale Parish Council;
 - NCC are happy to offer **professional parking and safety advice**, and will conduct their own analysis in Allendale;

- NCC acknowledge that **other settlements with village greens** face similar challenges in providing safe and appropriate parking; and,
- NCC would **incur the costs** of any resulting parking measures on the village green rather than the parish council.

What's next?

Parking within Allendale village has been a noted consideration, and a concern to some, for many years. With more cars and vehicles, the area has just become even more contested over the past 20 years. This has led to **challenges**, including parking and pedestrian safety issues within the old marketplace.

The parish council are pleased to have **received the support of the community policeman and the county council**. Advice from other parish councils has also been hugely valuable.

With this support - and the input from the parish parking survey - the aims of the parish council are to:

- **manage parking** for parishioners and other stakeholders appropriately;
- ensure **better safety** as parking becomes more contested; and,
- **continue to manage the village green** appropriately for the benefit of Allendale's residents.

We know that many local people want this issue addressed. We also understand that different groups of parishioners have different views. We will continue to explore solutions regarding the majority whilst taking into account all parishioner views.

We look forward to sharing a further update by the end of 2026.