

# LOCAL NEWS

## HUMSHAUGH WARD



**Nick Morphet**  
Your County Councillor

### ANOTHER YEAR - OF WORKING HARD FOR HUMSHAUGH

Happy New Year! I hope you had a great Christmas, and that you have a healthy, peaceful and productive 2023. I can't thank you enough for your support over the last eighteen months. **Standing up for people, nature and the environment** has kept me very busy, but I'm ready to do it all over again this year. Please feel free to get in touch with me at any time - my contact details are overleaf, and I'm never far away!

As well as being the leader of the Green Party group, **I continue to represent the ward on nine different bodies**. These include the Local Access Forum, the Standing Advisory Council on RE and the Members' Oversight Group. The LAF advises the County Council on access to the countryside, SACRE advises it on RE in schools and the MOG is **overseeing the Council's improvement journey** after a recent review labelled it as dysfunctional. I take my MOG role seriously, and am pleased to report that progress is good.

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### HELP AVAILABLE FOR HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS

Improving the energy efficiency of your home will keep you warm, save you money, reduce your carbon emissions and prepare you for the upcoming ban on new oil boilers. The ideal solution is to improve your home's insulation and then install a heat pump, but the cost is considerable. Fortunately, help is at hand! Whether you own or rent your home, if it has an EPC rating of D to G and your gross household income is less than £30,000 you'll be eligible for the County Council's **Warmer Homes scheme**. You can scan the QR code to the right to find out more or sign up:



If you're eligible for the Warmer Homes scheme, you might also be able to get help through the **Energy Company Obligation**. Homeowners, private tenants and housing association tenants can apply through any "obligated" energy supplier or through an installer. Use the Trustmark website to find an installer, and scan this QR code for a list of obligated suppliers:



Ofgem's Energy Company Obligation FAQs webpage is very helpful. You can read it by scanning this QR code:



If you're not eligible for the Warmer Homes scheme or Energy Company Obligation, your best bet is the **Boiler Upgrade Scheme**. This provides all property owners with a grant of up to £6,000 towards a heat pump. Scan this QR code for a very comprehensive overview:



# PROTECTING NORTHUMBERLAND'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

When Prime Minister Liz Truss threatened to impose "Investment Zones" with relaxed planning rules on our National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, **my Green Party group leapt to action**. We met with the leader of the Council and received reassurance that no Investment Zones would be created within Northumberland's National Park or AONBs. We were also reassured that any Investment Zones which were imposed upon Northumberland would involve no lowering of environmental standards.

The Investment Zone proposals were dropped when the Truss government collapsed, but it's still not clear whether the environment is high on the new government's agenda. The Green Party really cares about our natural environment, and my colleagues and I will fight to protect it whenever we're called upon to do so.

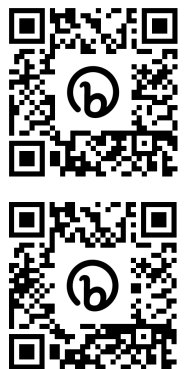
## MAKING OUR FOOTWAYS MORE ACCESSIBLE

With the help of residents, parish councillors and my colleagues in Active Travel Tynedale, I've now completed **Footway Accessibility Audits** in Humshaugh and Newbrough. The audits involve assessing how suitable each footway is for less able users and those with prams or pushchairs and then making a map showing where we need dropped kerbs, wider footways or better surfaces. The map is then sent to the Highways department with a covering letter. Both Humshaugh and Newbrough have benefited from this work. If your village needs an audit, just say!



## PUTTING A STOP TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

I'm proud to support **White Ribbon UK**, a great charity that campaigns to end all forms of violence against women and girls. One of the ways it does this is by encouraging people to make the **White Ribbon Promise** never to use, excuse or remain silent about violence against women. The County Council is White Ribbon accredited and I'm one of its **White Ribbon Ambassadors**, meaning that I've not only made the White Ribbon Promise but pledged to engage with men and boys in order to foster a culture of equality and respect. Women can become **White Ribbon Champions** by pledging to ensure that the voices of survivors are heard. You can make the promise by scanning the upper QR code, and you can become a White Ribbon Ambassador or Champion by scanning the lower QR code.



## MY MONEY IS YOUR MONEY

I have a **Members Local Improvement Scheme** allowance of £15k per year, to be spent on the purchase of community assets. If you've got a project that could benefit from this, please get in touch! The minimum spend is £2,000.

## GET IN TOUCH

**Email:** [nick.morphet@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:nick.morphet@northumberland.gov.uk)

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**Facebook:** search for @CllrMorphet or scan this QR code:



**NICK MORPHET: STANDING UP FOR HUMSHAUGH**