

Ainstable Parish Council

Serving the villages of Ainstable, Croglin, Newbiggin, and Ruckcroft,
the communities of Dale and Longdales, and the surrounding farms and houses.

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Holme Holt Project Public Consultation Meeting



You are invited to a public meeting to discuss
the Ainstable Parish Council proposals
for a visitor amenity at Holme Holt

7:30pm on Tuesday 14th April 2020

Armathwaite Old School Hall

chairman@ainstable.org.uk

What is Ainstable Parish Council planning to do?

For a long time, the vehicles parking along the length of Armathwaite Bridge have caused concern. Parked vehicles restrict the visibility and pose a risk for pedestrians and traffic alike. Wider vehicles like tractors, articulated lorries, and emergency services struggle to get across the bridge at times. These are real and understandable concerns, particularly to the communities on the east side of the River Eden who rely on this crossing point.

To address these concerns, and reduce the risks to the public, Ainstable Parish Council is proposing to create a safe stopping-off point and parking place on the Ainstable side of the bridge.



What will Holme Holt provide?

The main objectives for the Holme Holt project are to:

- **Improve road safety and access to the villages across the Eden.**
- **Provide an attractive place for visitors and locals to enjoy.**

The Holme Holt project will provide free off-road parking for up to 45 vehicles. This should keep the bridge clear of parked vehicles making it much safer for pedestrians and it will make the bridge, which is a grade 2 listed structure, a far more attractive place to visit.

We have already consulted with Cumbria Highways, who have agreed to look at restricting parking on the bridge and the approach roads.

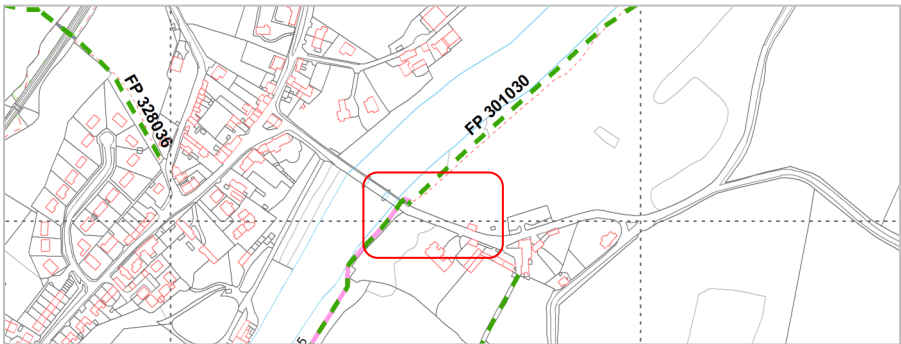
However, we want to ensure that what we create will be an attractive and useful facility for residents and visitors, providing a focal point from which the public can access the surrounding countryside.

What will Holme Holt look like?

Ainstable Parish Council has always planned that Holme Holt should have as low a visual impact as possible, and should complement the local area.

- **The whole site will be approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre.**

The site is already surrounded by a wall built in local sandstone. We are planning a bell-mouthed entrance, with a cattle grid, that uses the existing wall. The wall height will need to be slightly reduced to improve the view of the road in both directions; it also requires some repairs and possibly rebuilding to bring it up to standard.



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Car Park Surface

To allow vehicles to be parked on the land without causing a muddy mess does mean that there will have to be some surfacing work. The method we have chosen is well-used by the national parks and other conservation areas, and provides a solid but unobtrusive finish.

The top soil is removed temporarily then the parking area will have a membrane, then a ballast layer, then it is topped by a plastic mesh made from recycled plastics. The soil is put back into the mesh and can be planted with grass. This will give a free-draining surface which will look like a field again very quickly, but will also support vehicles parking on it.

Wildlife & Sustainability

We propose to surround the site with a mixed native-species hedge, to plant more native trees, and encourage wildlife. There are no plans to remove any trees from the site, although some of the older trees do require remedial surgery both for the health of the trees and for the safety of the public.

Access to the Countryside

There are several Public Rights of Way crossing the site and along the side of the river. The current access to these paths is down a steep and very uneven set of stone steps making the paths almost inaccessible for many people.

The Holme Holt plan will provide easy access to the footpaths from the parking area making the footpaths far more accessible for all. We hope to be able to provide wheelchair access to the footpaths, and to the river bank, increasing the benefits for everyone in the local area.

There will be seating overlooking the River Eden, providing an area for relaxation, and of course litter bins. The plan includes information boards providing walking routes, and wildlife information.



Funding the Project

Ainstable Parish is one of the smallest parishes in Cumbria, and does not have a large income. The monies we raise through the precept are fully committed to running the parish. What we do have though is an excellent record in raising grant funding, and in bringing extra funds into the parish to help complete a wide range of projects.

- **The Holme Holt project will be 100% grant funded, and free to use.**

A lot of work has already been done to source grant funding, and provisional agreements for the majority of the funding are already in place.

Ainstable Parish Council would like to express our thanks to the Ecroyd family, and in particular Mr Charles Ecroyd, for permission to use the land.