

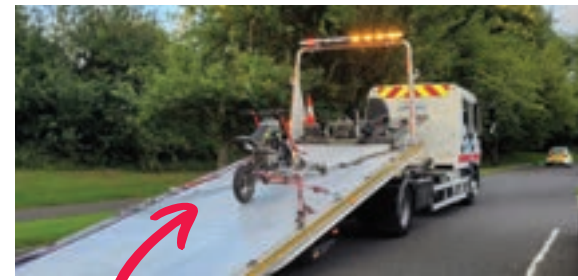
Other issues I've been working on:

Ovingham 686 bus. I met with Transport Officers at NCC to discuss your concerns about the difficulty getting from Ovington and Ovingham to Prudhoe Front Street. Officers have agreed to look into altering the timetable.



Twenty's plenty for Ovingham. My petition has gathered enough support to be taken to the Community Partnership after the Highways team have completed speed surveys in the village. I am looking forward to working with Ovingham Parish Council to make sure Ovingham gets the safer speed limits most other villages in Northumberland enjoy.

New sheds for Eastwoods Road Allotments. After a successful campaign we secured £2000 from Northumberland Estates to replace the sheds at the Eastwood Road allotments, following a devastating fire.



Footpath repairs. Following my intervention, NCC have carried out improvement works on the Dene Estate footpaths in Wylam. There are many more footpaths in need of attention, and I will continue to push for this.

Illegal bikes on the Wagonway. Report, report, report! Many residents have raised concerns with me about the growing problem of intimidating, dangerous and illegal use of electric motorbikes on the Wagonway and Keelmans Path. Thanks to more reporting, the Police have increased their presence and seized an electric motorbike and a dirt bike, with hopefully many more to come. Please continue to report incidents online via the Northumbria Police website or by calling 101.



Speeding in Castlefields. I am urging the Town Council to include this in their Local Transport Plan. Meanwhile, I am continuing to push the Northumberland County Council Highways team to implement changes to force speeders to slow down.

Upcoming surgeries

If you have any issues you'd like to discuss, come and say hello at one of my surgeries on November 15th:

- 8.30am Ovingham Reading Room
- 9.30am Wylam Institute
- 10.30am Prudhoe Library

Contact me:
 Lawrence.O'Donnell@northumberland.gov.uk
 Tel: 07889 144 695

For more information on the articles in this newsletter, or to find out more about the local Labour Party, visit us at: www.hexhamclp.org.uk/news-from-labour/

Promoted by Padraig O'Kelly on behalf of Lawrence O'Donnell, both at Northumberland Labour, 94 Station Road, Ashington, NE63 8RN.
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LAWRENCE O'DONNELL

County Councillor for Prudhoe North & Wylam

I'm incredibly proud to represent our new ward of Prudhoe North & Wylam. It is a privilege that I do not take lightly. I had thousands of conversations with you during the election campaign and, as I hope you can see from this newsletter, I've been working hard on the issues you raised. And yet there is still plenty more to do, from improving local transport, the condition of our roads and pavements, school facilities and road safety, to protecting green spaces, improving access to recycling, and tackling antisocial behaviour. I stood in the Northumberland County Council elections because I wanted to make sure our area is the best it can be, and to give something back to our fantastic, friendly and supportive community – thank you for giving me the opportunity to do that.



Please get in touch if there is anything I might be able to help you with or come along to one of my drop-in surgeries.

Prudhoe Transport Plan Meeting

On 10th November, there is a great opportunity to discuss the future of public transport in Prudhoe and the surrounding villages. North East Mayor, Kim McGuinness, will be joined by representatives from Northern Rail, Go North East and Northumberland County Council.

This is a unique opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions to shape the future of public transport for our community. Everyone welcome.

If you want to table questions/comments, please email me at Lawrence.O'Donnell@northumberland.gov.uk

Prudhoe Parish Hall, NE42 5HJ
Monday 10 Nov 2025 7.30–9pm

Free, but please get tickets in advance from Prudhoe Library or online: www.buytickets.at/hexhamclplabourparty/1896784



Banking in Prudhoe

It wasn't long ago that we had two fully operational banks in Prudhoe – Barclays and Lloyds.

Within a very short time, both have closed and have been replaced by a Community banking service which gives us an average of one day per month. Many people are unable to travel elsewhere to get to an open branch, and some businesses need to be able to deposit cash daily. On top of this, the number of ATMs has reduced to two, and they aren't always working. This isn't good enough for a town of our size.

I've been discussing this with our MP, Joe Morris. The current rules determining who gets a proper banking hub do not reflect our needs in Prudhoe. Joe has met with the financial organisations who control this to push for a better hub for Prudhoe. Unfortunately this will take time, so in the meantime we have requested a meeting with the company who manage the last two ATMs in Prudhoe to demand better reliability.



Message from Joe Morris MP



Prudhoe and the surrounding areas remain a key focus of my work as your MP. It was here that I held my very first advice surgery and since then I have returned regularly, holding events like my recent drop-in advice surgeries with County Councillors Angie Scott and Lawrence O'Donnell, attending community events and supporting Prudhoe Community High School through their huge challenges last academic year. I also continue to meet with local businesses and speak with residents on the doorstep to ensure your concerns are heard in Parliament.

Recently, many of you have raised concerns about road maintenance and road safety with me which I will be taking forward with Northumberland County Council. In Wylam, I am raising concerns about vehicles speeding through the village.

On my summer tour of the constituency, where I visited 80 different communities from Byrness to Allenheads and Blenkinsopp to Throckley, I heard views on wider issues including Gaza, farming and immigration which I have taken with me to Westminster to inform the work I do there on your behalf.

A Message from the North East Mayor, Kim McGuinness

Everyone in Prudhoe deserves reliable, affordable and safe transport and as Mayor I'm determined to make that happen.

We're taking buses back under public control so that we can get the services our communities need, rather than just the ones making a profit for the bus companies, bringing public control of fares, routes and timetables – and we'll do it faster than anywhere else with the greenest transport.

That's a big process though, so in the meantime we're doing what we can to make transport better for you. We've just extended the £2.50 cap to keep bus prices 50p lower than the national cap and we're also keeping in place our £1 ticket for bus travel for youngsters 21 and under. That means they can get to the fantastic

opportunities in our region for an affordable price. We'll also be fixing up some of the bus stops in Prudhoe with new shelters and seating, with the improvements expected by the end of March next year.

But this is just the start – we're working hard to give North East passengers the world-class transport system they deserve and I look forward to hearing from you about the improvements you want to see.



Prudhoe Station car park extension

For a town the size of Prudhoe, the station car park is woefully inadequate. The car park is often full to capacity by 7.30am on weekdays and, frustratingly, the land behind is not being used. This has a knock-on effect on the Tyne Riverside car park, which is effectively being used as an overflow, meaning cafe customers are not able to park. Prudhoe is long overdue its fair share of capital investment. **If the Conservative-led County Council refuses to improve parking in Prudhoe it sends a clear message of how little they care about our town.** They clearly have the money – they've just spent £3.9m on their own car park in Morpeth!

I have asked Parking Services at NCC to consider a desperately needed extension to Prudhoe station car park.

