

## Townscape Heritage Scheme

### Comments provided from the first public realm consultation about the Townfoot site.

Names and comments that may identify individuals have been removed, otherwise the comments below are 'as recieved'

Total scores	Comments
15	A public work of art displaying the vast history from Roman silver & lead mining to Victorian coal would be perfect.
15	Entering Alston from Hexham the first thing you see is a scrapyard. From Penrith you pass a row of semi derelict buildings (Tyne Cafe, Salvin Cottage, Blue Bell) Something (anything) to brighten it up
15	Retaining wall cleaned and improved with a mural attached. Keep most of green with addition of some infi, inc historical that invites people to explore. More bulbs (in planters?) Some stepping stones, seating
15	The memorial to lead-mine owner and 'adventurer' Jacob Walton of Greenends, was reinstated with a £50,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant in 2004, on the site of 4 moth-eaten Leylandii that obscured a waist-high stone pillar. Part of the long-term aim was that the memorial, with its information board and hard landscaping of the wheelchair accessible ramp, the sandstone flagged path and the stone seat, could form part of a small park. The conduit for the electricity cable to light the Christmas tree was planned and incorporated with the ramp.
15	These are all so very relevant and should not be separated from each other as each contributes to the whole. Metal silhouettes along the front of the wall, Roman, Leadminer, Shepherd, Wool spinner, Cyclist, Walker The National Trust are promoting the planing of blossom trees this year as part of severl organisations planting trees. What about a blossom tree appropriate to the area at the corner next to the steps. Also incorporating the setts available from the Front Street project, maybe as a Covid memorial.
15	these points seem to be statements of fact rather something we can like or dislike.
15	Yes I agree: All 5 ideas: Will enhance our little 'old' town, perhaps adding some walk areas in more distinct attractive design eg the Butts (why is it called this?) and leading on to Gossipgate. A lovely stroll. After seeing the waterfall they will be hungry so find a cafe, hotel or pub & stay longer. People need to know Another area, on board - fairhill play area info For the townfoot a 3'-4' retaining wall with a gate entrance so hildren cannot run onto the busy road. Place 6-8 picnic tables (not stone slab seats) people need to relax after journeys The toilets being v fortunately nearby.
15	The highest of fells - Cross Fell. But also our Alston Town is encircled by the other beautiful fells. So Alston = "crown of the Pennines".. or "Fell Henge of the Pennines" (or spomething as a hook, moe apt) Why not Alston as a 'camp' for people to stay and walk up each encircling fell? An addition to the summit of the Pennine Way (we need footfall). So it will include the roman fort, our steam railway. But GREEN must somehow be included i.e.steam railway = 'fake green'.

	A huge and complex issue that will only increase this decade and on. And electric car recharge plug-ins at the two garages? Parking space for visitors? At the fort, a local roman re-enactment group is needed. What stone standing relics are on or about our fells? Can such features be replicated in stone from Alston.
15	+ 5 with no comments
14	<p>I have marked all but one of the 'ideas' with a 3, because they are all inherently true and more should be made of these features with interpretation to explain how they are all linked, not only in Alston but in the surrounding area. there are other historic features around the district that give background to how people lived, for example old schools and chapels, which are demolished, derelict, or converted. I have marked down 'idea' B, entitled "Making a living in and around Alston" because arts, crafts and cafes are all very well for seasonal visitors but do nothing (much) for local residents, who no longer have butchers, drapers, shoe-shops and so on. I appreciate that such businesses have to be viable and can't charge premium prices, but high quality businesses of this type can also attract visitors and be of use to locals all year round.</p> <p>Picking up on C, "Water", we should be trying to harness that again, not just have it as something from the past. Hydro-electricity, Milling, even a Woollen Mill - wool is produced on Alston Moor - use it. 'Green' entrepreneurs required!</p> <p>Coming to the area of the Townfoot, which is under consideration here, I have, for a number of years, thought that the retaining wall should be moved back to its (more or less) original location hard up against the back of the footway, which could be widened by a couple of feet. This would get rid of the need for the unsightly barricades that are erected during Appleby Fair. The resulting Town Hall Gardens would become a single entity once again that could be provided with footpaths, seats, rose-beds/herbaceous borders. It would also make the area something separate and not just a bit of spare roadside. A series of interpretations panels/maps could be provided, such that they do not detract from the gardens, but which can show what Alston has to offer in terms of shops, historic locations, interest trails. The idea could be promoted that 'exploration' leaflets can be obtained from the TIC in the Town Hall next door. The area has a lot to offer, from its scenery to walking routes, long and short distance, to history, industrial archaeology, geology, flora and fauna.</p> <p>Serious consideration needs to be given as to what to do about car parking; many historic towns and villages have out of town parking and require visitors to walk into the centre; letting everyone drive into the Market Place and then not finding anywhere to park just detracts from the visitors' experience.</p>
14	Townfoot really needs tidying up , there are many derelict or semi derelict buildings make the approach look rough and uncared for. It looks like a deprived area which it is. No one has any money to do anything substantial.
14	+ 2 with no comments
13	<p>Bulbs, lots of them planted en mass so that they would provide an annual colorful show of seasonal joy. We could have successional bulbs planted so that as the snowdrops &amp; croci die back, the daffodils, narcissi &amp; tulips take over to be followed by later lilies, peonies &amp; other summer flowering bulbs.</p> <p>No idea what budget is available but if sufficient then we could have a truly spectacular Townfoot without losing the grass area amenity &amp; natural stone seating, which is so appropriate.</p>
13	David Bellamy's book 'Englands Last Wilderness' was published in 1989 but I don't know when the name originated. It should be featured along with the fact that Alston is dubbed 'Highest Market Town'. There should be at Town Foot as well as on the main roads into the town colourful welcoming signs as in some other parts of Britain. I am not very happy with the present county boundary sign depicting Alston Moor with green pyramids!!

	It is said that lead from the area was used on cathedral and parish churches in Europe but that needs verifying.
13	Visitors passing through only see derelict properties - Blue Bell, Salvin Cottage, Tyne Cafe - they need invigorating. Restoration of setts to Swan/Overburn. They are still there, just remove the tarmac!
13	If interpretation panels are used they should go near the wall besides the steps. Other structures need to compliment the strong lines of the memorial and Town Hall. Also be robust as the toilets are a very popular youth gathering place, and if on the upper level fit around the Christmas pole.
13	It is perfect position for an artwork, piece of sculpture depicting Alston Moor (ie Angel of the North near Newcastle ) on the outskirts of Newcastle. Set in a landscaped area, with Information boards, seating, planting , working Water wheel, small pond, water feature. A competition could be held for artists /sculptors to design a piece of art symbolic of Alston's past. Something which would make visitors want to stop and look.
13	It would be good to have something that connects the past to the present - perhaps a timeline across the site to provide more detail, connecting to an eye-catching focal point. (It's a pity however that it's only the bottom level as it would have been nice to be able to have a better connection between the two green areas - you could then have had stone seats set into the grass above providing a viewing point perhaps with steps connecting to the lower level (rather than via the path to the side of the site) with perhaps some 'activity space' around the welcome feature).
13	Let's make the green space even more attractive than it is Could murals like the ones on the cane workshop gable end help to tell the local heritage stories and be installed on the retaining wall beneath the monument above the grass? Along with some additional planting and seating this would provide a key space for visitors to access and learn about our wonderful town Thank you for consulting the community on this issue
13	Lots of good ideas but whatever is decided I would suggest a focal 'art', 'sculpture', installation representative of the area and its heritage, plus interpretive information. Lots to go on from mining and water power. For example Scottish canals, interpretive trailer etc see Old school Fabrications.co.uk They are based in Peaston, near Edinburgh but work nationwide!
13	Walton memorial retored to original place as in old photographs and postcards. A black metal fence height 50cms from the same to the wall tops. This space being 30cms for planting flowers Sign-Alstons Highest Market Town Large bright letters, erected in the centre of lower grass section.
13	Finding ways to celebrate Alston's history should draw visitors. I think the Mill would make an important tourist attraction Possibilities for walking & hiking are also important. Ways to make a living & the community make Alston attractive but perhaps more for people wanting to come and live here.
13	+ 8 with no comments
12	All of the above options are viable and have their benefits but I think we need to consider what visitors want to know when visiting a place The heritage and connectivity seem the best options The connectivity is important now to visitors Enabling Alston to be viewed as more than an option en route to somewhere else . The Roman road and lead mining roads were an important part of our history and even though Epiacum Roman Fort is not physically central to Alston it is central to alstons tourism offer . Since mining is also a strong element of our heritage ( Roman and otherwise) could a gateway

	idea be linked to this?
12	Alston needs more parking and landscaped sitting areas with displays on local history and adverts for local shops and sites of interest.
12	Better parking (hospital field on the level close to the town)
12	I liked idea 1 because the lead mining and silver extraction have been the fundamental reason for why there is a community here, but I slightly prefer idea 4, because there is evidence that Alston became a key transit stopping place for the the early transport and communications infrastructure crossing the North Pennines. A recent archaeological desk study on the Bluebell at Townfoot (beside the Townfoot site) has revealed that it was an important coaching inn, with weekly coaches setting off in the middle of the night en route to Newcastle or London. These coaches would have made next overnight stops at Hexham, Middleton in Teesdale or Barnard Castle, but the bustle of that infrastructure and the passes over our fells becoming turnpike roads, conjures up a recent era that we can often take for granted now.
12	<p>I think that the term "gateway" has confused people's thinking . But obviously it is a great idea to spend some of the funding on developing the public areas around Alston. The space at the bottom of the street is only one area where the money could be spent and if there are available funds could a heritage trail be installed on various buildings and also could the town signposting be upgrade to identify some of the historic names ( lemon square / Kates lane / pigeon alley etc). I do believe that this was discussed at some point. Creating planters / additional seating throughout the front street would be good if not at the detriment of car parking, which remains the single issue we face as a community.</p> <p>I think that the current "noise" against AMP is both disappointing and infuriating and based on nothing more than ignorance.</p> <p>I think maybe you should consult again ( sorry) and ask the community if they wish to see the front street and public areas of Alston improved and list possible areas</p> <p>It's disappointing about the "potato market" as this would have been ideal. I anticipate that the current poll on Alston Moor Matters will be used to justify that the community are against the whole idea and I Hope that as an organisation you will tackle this and enable sensible community members to counter that . Thank you for the hard work that has gone into the development of the TH project overall. The town is looking much better and I hike that the public realm plans can enhance this further !</p>
12	<p>Maybe the employment and financial future of Alston lies in re kindling some of the historic industries as well as cafes and craft.</p> <p>I support "Green sustainability" but this should not be a substitute for poor central and local government investment in the area.</p>
12	Parking is a major issue for the town. How do you expect visitors to stop when there is nowhere to park
12	Retain grassed area and add a flower bed
12	<p>The idea of some murals on the walls seems to have gathered some interest . It would be good to highlight some of the "hidden areas" of the town - the butts / high mill / lemon square / seven sisters</p> <p>Encouraging visitors to access the town via the butts would be a much less strenuous walk and much could be made of this route . a QR trail could be installed to make it an interpretive walk where people learn about the most historic part of the town . How about getting some heritage stories / videos accessible - stories of the infamous sledging escapade down front street ? There are all sorts of stories connected to the town that visitors might enjoy learning about</p> <p>The townfoot would make a really good "start point" and entice people to learn more but I think it's important to continue the information points along the route .</p>

	<p>The Butts in itself is a really under-valued part of the town</p> <p>A "Butts Bloom" initiative could also enhance it and get residents there involved in making it a really nice and welcoming visitor attraction in itself .</p> <p>Lemon Square apple trees could be planted along the way and maybe even become a bit of a community apple growing patch for residents to enjoy?</p> <p>Also - could there be some focus on the fossil pavement -apparently. Many many fossils from the top of the street to the bottom .</p> <p>Just finding ways to inform visitors and leave them having learned something is a really important part of heritage engagement. It could be a technology based offer or a series of information boards .</p> <p>Thank you for giving us the opportunity to participate in the consultation</p>
12	The river, mining, and the railway are all interlinked - focus on your history to ensure people have something to want to come for. It's a great area for walking and exploring this history.
12	+ 9 with no comments
11	<p>all of the above options make Alston unique in their own right - quite hard to choose. But heritage is something that has a thread through most of the options . thinking about it from a visitors point of view and gaining insight as to why people come -is it just because they arrive here en route to somewhere else? Or because they are intentional visitors? Safe to say, both - but helping them to linger once they arrive is a good plan. Lots of misunderstanding (and deliberate sabotaging of the plans ) but the area could easily be enhanced and made safer as a place for people to enjoy. It's not ideal with its closeness to the road - would some hedging or a retaining wall be allowed? Some murals designed and created by local craftworkers maybe? or a willow sculpture of some description?</p>
11	Alston without the cobbles is a disappointment to many visitors
11	<p>Visitors struggle to find parking space and have no way of knowing about the top car-park - signage?</p> <p>The lower sections of the Nent river eg 7 sisters via the Butts eg waterfalls beside the old iron foundry - these are much more tangible visitor attractions than the boring grass at Townfoot. If fences and equipped could be a second children's playground but what about signage for the very good one that already exists</p>
11	<p>I value Alston's strength, community, resilience and enterprise. The Town with altitude is right. We are the strong beating heart of the AONB &amp; a little miracle of survival against the odds. Where else would you find such brilliant local businesses and more services that most huge villages elsewhere?As one new resident said to me this week: "It has a strange draw on me".</p>
11	The site should be as open as possible, colourful, inviting and informative. Car parking crucial.
11	please not a horrible modern "sculpture"! We don't need to dumb down: information and photos, maps and directions on all these subjects could be displayed around a traditional low-key drystone structure/ shelter, with seating if poss.
11	There could be a sign post like at Land's End so you could have your photo taken at England's highest market town. Cyclists would love this as they used to have group photos taken at Hartside Cafe. Could idea A,B,C,E be combined with a statue of a Roman / waterwheel / artist
11	<p>The appropriate development of the Townfoot site is important as it provides an opportunity to attract visitors into the town. It is quite possible to drive through the town on the A686 without realising that a town centre exists.</p> <p>The site also has the potential to act as a gateway,</p> <p>I think there is a need to recognise the rural economy in the "ideas". Alston clearly serviced the</p>

	mining and quarrying industries but that was always in the context of the farming industry and it was an important market town. I have seen it referred to in the national press as the regional capital (of the North Pennines).
11	Whatever is decided, in my view it should 1) not compromise the pleasant green space, 2) visually draw people up the hill - complement whatever may be planned for the redevelopment of the road surface etc (it those plans are still 'live'), 3) speak of Alston Moor as a living community, not merely a historic curiosity.
11	While history is important to remember, I feel we must promote it's future
11	+ 7 with no comments
10	Maybe a map to follow with historic buildings on and the history on a web page. With what each buildings history is. Not too long. Web page can have the map and corresponding numbers and a picture then history. On the map leaflet, just a brief sentence and picture or picture boards to encourage people to walk around Alston.
10	All of the suggestions represent part of the history and nature of Alston and I feel that they all should have some degree of representation, from the heavy industry of the past to more modern industries such as tourism. Something that encompasses the history and current Alston with its quirks and idiosyncrasies, but above all a pride in the place. One cautious note, thought should be given to the longevity of what is done. Nothing gives as bad an impression of a place as a civic bling installation that is falling apart with coloured plastic faded, information signs illegible, timber rotting, etc..
10	Car park. Section on hill could be made pretty with flowers
10	Highlight fossils, better parking information, visitor centre, look at Hawes and how they get people to park and walk until town. Offer a voucher, if you use car park get a voucher to spend in local shops, or pay to park but get the money back if you buy locally. Need really good signage at Townfoot to encourage people to walk up into town. Info leaflet and display board available at Town foot and town head with a route to follow to see fossils, seven sisters, mill race, Kate's lane etc.
10	I really like the idea of drawing visitors up the street by displaying what Alston has to offer on Town Foot, this will have a major impact on local businesses finances and rejuvenate Alston like never before. I like the notion of this area serving both the townsfolk and visitors - perhaps a fitting art sculpture or mural would work. It needs to be something eye-catching enough for people to stop and look, but also not disturb the towns natural beauty. Talk of a mural spanning the length of the retaining wall behind the stone seats would be lovely, and we could depict different locations of interest in it to coax visitors to explore our town (if possible designs from local artists would be great). I've always loved the mural on the gable end of The Cane Workshop. I also like the idea of local tradesmen being portrayed in the mural, and I think if we managed to tell a story of the people who live here; the difficulties of living/working in rural areas, lack of transport and funding etc. we could get visitors to understand how special we all are, and how despite these challenges we prevail due to our deep community spirit and kindness.
10	I would really like to see Heritage funds used to replace the cobbles!
10	I'd like to see massive images of our parish's past on the rear wall- the 1897 mass photo- Nenthead Miners- Garrigill Peace Celebrations of 1919- our cobbles and shops- beauty spots like Ashgill Falls- charabancs- old cyclists- running races- haymakers- Foundry workers- coal miners ...

10	I've been in Nenthead only 3 years, so my ideas may differ from people who have been here longer. But the thing that attracted me to the area was its uniqueness and sense of community. It is a quirky place, and has potential to attract visitors because of that. People will only come all this way if there is something different to see. So please don't make it too polished!! Thank you.
10	Not only a close and caring community but an essential waystation center of the nation.
10	The development of town foot will promote Alston best if the neighbouring buildings - the old blue bell and the old buildings by Hendersons are tidied up as well -and used- - A depressing entrance to the town .
10	+ 9 with no comments
9	<p>Increase the seating in this area</p> <p>I feel that by adding an information point would benefit the town of Alston incorporating then and now and how the town has evolved and developed over the years.</p> <p>There are so many talented people who live in the town and on the moor and some quite unique shops that owners have worked hard to build and we should be encouraging tourists in their direction by means of a "You are here" information point. Several years ago these type of boards were common place and very useful, all businesses in Alston and the surrounding area would hopefully benefit and encourage visitors to stay within the town for a few hours. Not everyone has the benefit of the internet or on Facebook and therefore able to search on their mobiles for the nearest Cafe, nearest pub, nearest craft shop, nearest outdoor shop, toilets facilities etc.</p> <p>Not everyone who visits is interested in history, we are a nation of shoppers!!!</p> <p>The town foot area needs to be protected from use by the travelling community who pass by on their way to Appleby Fair and therefore some sort of permanent deterrent should also be considered ie fencing</p>
9	<p>The site is crying out to be used in a creative way. But what?</p> <p>A sculpture could become a climbing frame - official or unofficial. A footpath / maze with information boards along the way (a use for the old setts?) Small, seating areas with opportunities to display ceramic interpretive tiles.</p>
9	Signage for top carpark and for Fairhill play area. Could townfoot also be a play area?
9	+ 5 with no comments
8	Plant it out with colourful flowers. It's a nice space. The North Pennines are wild, Alston is friendly and sociable. Picnic benched and perhaps some shelter. On a separate note, the Cumberland is a great pub but that west wall is an eyesore!
8	The one dstinguishing factor for Alston was the beautiful cobbled street and if work is going on to restore Alston to it's glory this really needs to be dealt with. Promises were made that the tarmac was a temporary soluton and that the cobbles were to be relaid. This would never have happened to, for example, a similat town in the Cotswolds in the south of England. I do hope effort is going into this and English Heritage are involved.
8	I would like to see well managed flower beds in this area. All small remote towns in this area have lovely flowers but Alston has nothing. So people drive past nothing to lur them up into the town.
8	Overall I feel the decision should reference today with a nod to the past - we need to be forward looking; not become a museum piece for the past

8	That section of Townfoot is stunning, and fine as it is. It's already a lovely gateway. I wouldn't want to see anything erected there. Maybe put the information on panels outside the Town Hall (particularly for when TIC is closed), and better promote the heritage trail leaflet produced in 2019, perhaps with a QR code to download it outside the Town Hall? Clean up the milestone at Townfoot/Front Street junction, and the old signpost? Have some finger posts with distances directing people to the town centre, TIC, South Tynedale Railway at that junction and at Townhead/STR entrance? Fund some 'brown' tourist signs at key points locally and further afield promoting Alston as a heritage/historic town?
8	to me Alston reminds me a little of Paris, more specifically Montmartre. the Victorian lamps and twisting back streets. The people of Alston, are art full of what they do. making the best some times with very little.
8	We really need additional car parking - short term with Cumbria badge - to incentivise people to stop. 5 to 10 spaces with Town notice boards would be a very pragmatic use of the space. With the green space above round the memorial the grass would not be missed too much.
8	+ 10 with no comments
7	Alston should stress that it is in a UNESCO Global Geopark. One of only 161 in the whole world. There could be a leaflet pointing out features of geological interest around the town.
7	I am disappointed that you are not able to make any improvements to the Potato Market which desperately needs some TLC. Can nothing be done?
7	I think there should be a steam train or some big vehicle that would attract visitors to want to come I'm have their photograph taken with it. Also we are the highest market town in England and this needs to be made a point of.
7	It would be good to have something to attract people into the town centre. But, I would like to see the Town Foot look more appealing. The run-down buildings eg. Bluebell, Salvin House and Tyne Café all need to be renovated because they give a poor impression of the town and could put anyone off from stopping to explore the town.
7	I would have thought that having been the highest market town in England more could have been made of this. Hopefully to reinstate this market to its former glory.
7	+ 5 with no comments
6	Does it need to change. What about few picnic tables and flowers. Fairhill could do with some help.
6	I think the defining features of Alston are its mining history and landscape. The common link is geology. I suggest a sculpture at Townfoot representing the rock strata beneath us; a town geotrail (as Kendal) about the varied building stone (could top up with new sections of pavement using different stone types); spar boxes and mineral specimens displayed in shop windows; pubs/cafes to give dishes 'rock' or 'geologic' names ('continental drift' ale; 'subduction zone' tart, etc); ditch Alston Live and replace with Alston Rocks...
6	Leave thing alone. Stop scheming up unnecessary projects.
6	My answer would be different depending on what is created..could several messages be incorporated into the final design feature like a water fountain or sculpture?
6	+ 3with no comments
5	I hope whatever proposals that are put forward are offered to the residents for approval or rejection, after all it will be the locals that will see it all year round and not just an occasional impromptu visit. I'm not even sure this idea would offer any benefit over the nice uncluttered green space we have now. Sometimes less is more.
5	It would great to see a nod to the great lead mining days. After all Alston wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the Lead mining industry.

4	As soon as you say from Alston folk say ahh with the Market Cross and cobbles, this is what makes our Alston stick in people's minds, highest market town... something to do with market is needed...
4	I understand this is the beginning of the process but should you be able to re submit the survey once you done it, not a good look from a partnership to do with moor business, but what we have grown to expect I suppose in this area these days .....
4	+ 2 with no comments
3	I'm sorry but before a drive out very few people google history of the place they are visiting, so Alston needs to stick with what people know it for, highest market town cobbles and south Tyne railway, otherwise you loose its identity...
2	<p>It is unclear what the ideas are on which you seek an opinion. Most of these are simple statements of fact, from which there is no obvious route to realising a visual image to attract visitors.</p> <p>The key challenge facing Townfoot visually, is the condition of its historic buildings, whose disrepair and dereliction are an obvious disincentive to visitors.</p> <p>The great visual glory of Alston town today is its priceless legacy of historic buildings. The Townscape Heritage Initiative has recognised this through its work on Front Street buildings, but the biggest challenges in the whole town in this field are in Townfoot. Of especial concern are the Tyne Cafe, Salvin Cottage and the old Bluebell Inn, all of which are currently in disrepair or derelict. Yet these are the very first historic buildings that most visitors see.</p>
2	<p>Rather than above I would prefer for the area to be revamped, look loved, have hanging baskets and flower beds, make it an inviting area to sit, let people know they can use it. Have a game board table, bench seating so people can sit opposite and chat or a book area with books, something different, art work on the natural stone walls. Make the best of the natural environment.</p> <p>Consider potential vandalism especially with the toilets above.</p>
2	<p>The grassed area at Alston Townfoot is unspoilt and beautiful the way it and has been for more than a hundred years ..... please leave it alone .... there is already a prominent feature of the Memorial it doesn't need anything else doing. I believe the heritage money is for the front street and Townfoot .... what would be beneficial is for Cumbria County Council or body concerned to approach owners of all these derelict And dilapidated buildings such as the dwelling home and Blue Bell Inn for instance to have a notice order to either sell them or have them made habitable they are an absolute eyesore for residents and visitors to what once was a beautiful town and will put people off for coming here. As is the case also of the Old Tyne Cafe Premises .... another absolute eyesore. It is in a prime location for the renovation of said buildings to create a cafe /gift shop / perhaps a visitor centre much needed for the town. Said Heritage Lottery would be better spent helping have these buildings restored to their former glory. I would add that similarly the owners of St Paul's Methodist Church should also be served notice to either renovate or sell the buildings perhaps compulsory notices.</p> <p>Secondly: the cobbled street needs restored it's what truly makes Alston a historical town.</p> <p>Thirdly: Alston town very much needs some decent visitor car parks and off street residential parking to ease up congestion on Townfoot .... it is actually essential. Please look into this possibility (perhaps Tyne willows or the gravel area of spar site - but definitely owners of houses on Townfoot need to park their cars in a designated car park area for their own use .... it is off putting and somewhat dangerous driving along Townfoot trying to manoeuvre past parked cars and low and behold if you should meet a large vehicle whilst trying to indicate up the Front Street. Why are you so obsessed with spending money on useless projects and spoiling Townfoot beauty.</p> <p>Yes I do like the idea of some signage of Alston's history .... but please not on the Townfoot Green Area. Some seating areas for visitors along town foot and all the way up into the town</p>

	<p>centre would benefit visitors to sit and enjoy a picnic and take in the surrounding beauty.</p> <p>I would like to conclude that your survey is very misleading and generally not very well written and not clear at all. The residents deserve to make the final decisions on your proposals and not be excluded in any plans going forward and listen to them this time .... they are the ones living here remember it's their town.</p> <p>I can't complete any of the questions because quite honestly it doesn't make any sense and do consider myself an intelligent person. What do they even mean?</p> <p>I hope my comments are not too critical and that you'll consider my comments.</p> <p>Lastly - consideration must be made for people living in Nenthead where I live to have a place to go and put our completed survey/comments as not everyone has a car to drive down to Alston to leave at Mad hatters. Perhaps approach our village Community Shop they may accommodate a collection box.</p>
2	There is no need to change this part of the town. It's other areas that need looking at. This is a nice clear area that is well used in summer, and a nice place to sit with no clutter.
1	I see no reason for spoiling the bottom of town with some artificial "welcome" thing. The last thing Alston needs is to be touted as a mere tourist attraction. Let it speak for itself. Who "decided" that this was a good idea anyway ? No-one asked me or anyone I know, and I have yet to meet anyone who likes the idea. It's a nice area of grass to sit and have a picnic. Leave it alone, in its natural state. I was delighted when the partnership was prevented from ruining the Potato Market, and hope very much that this initiative will also die a natural death. But if you MUST do something so tacky - put it in the station car park. You do not want to be encouraging tourist cars to drive up the hill into town.
1	Surely the first consultation should have been asking us if we wanted the green space at Townfoot to be used/altered. Information as to whether or not the memorial will be affected etc. Not just ideas which really give us no idea as to what to expect. Money which could be better spent on practical things rather than whatever it is you have planned. Surely a gateway should be as you come into Alston not in town.
0	Boring
0	Hate the idea .... full stop!!!
0	Hate the idea. Tidy what we have already.
0	I fail to understand why you are planning to destroy one of the few green spaces in Alston - the best course of action would be to leave Townfoot as it is - furthermore why has there been no consultation on the suitability of this site - it appears that a small group of unelected people have decided on the "gateway" with no involvement of the wider community.
0	<p>I feel this space needs to be left alone. There is very little green area spaces when you come through Alston. This survey makes no sense whatsoever and the public should be asked if they want anything done with it at all.</p> <p>That part of Alston is dangerous. Not enough room as residents park their vehicles on one side of the road. It is an accident waiting to happen!</p> <p>Please put a better survey out to the community than this one. We should be consulted on whether we want it or not.</p>

	The money should be spent elsewhere!
0	I like Alston the way it is
0	I like it just as it is. Please don't change it.
0	I like the area as it is now.
0	I like the grassed area as it is.
0	I think it should be made into a car park. I lived on the town foot for 10 years with a disability. The amount of parking for houses is shocking, in the summer I had ended up parking at the top of Alston due to such little parking, then hobble down the street, ended up having to move because of this. If we want people to come they need to park somewhere too
0	I think the area should remain as it is, with maybe an alston town map showing the business/shops/tourist attractions and a picnic bench. It is the only green area in the centre of Alston and I would like it to remain that way. I would prefer the money to go towards putting some more flowers/plants there but still keeping the main area as grass. My answer to the question of what are you proud of, of Alston was the cobbles and its community spirit.
0	Its a green space, leave it as it is.
0	Just a waste doing it on one area alone.
0	Having assumed the project would be to redevelop the Blue Bel & adjoining properties I was amazed to find it is to use the grass area. it is only in the last few years that the grass has been cared for and seating provided which gives somewhere for visitors to rest as there is poor seating further up the street. Visitors have always found their way to the shops etc. I object to this idea.

0	<p>Thank you for your recent leaflet which does not give me the scope for expressing my views on this matter, hence this letter.</p> <p>Before encouraging people to drive up into Alston Town Centre which is already congested with vehicles parked on the road sides, convenient off street parking is needed. An excellent site for this would be the former Precision Products site in The Butts with entrance and exit between the Co-op and the Crown Hotel. Expensive if looked at in isolation but not so when thought of as a permanent, long term solution to Alston's parking problems. It would de-clutter the Front Street, which is a delivery driver's nightmare and provide many more, conveniently located, visitor parking spaces.</p> <p>There were very strong local objections to the Potato Market scheme, or more precisely to the loss of scarce car parking spaces that this would have entailed. As regards ownership of this parcel of land I once saw the deeds to one property showing it to be the usual 1,000 years lease from 1621 with a map clearly showing ownership extended in front of the property to the road thus giving right of access. This may possibly apply to all similar properties in this area of the town centre.</p> <p>The grassed area at the Town Foot with its local stone seats and seasonal flowers is excellent and should not be altered, it Is a very pleasant place to sit especially on a sunny day. Having said that a notice board showing town centre attractions like the Market Cross, cafes, shops, Gossipgate waterfalls and the waterwheel in the town centre. An interpretive board illustrating the subterranean Nent Force Level, perhaps sited alongside the track above the Level, leading to the waterfalls. would be of interest. But car parking should be addressed first.</p>
0	<p>Leave it as green space. What is meant by " purposeful piece of work in the public realm" anyway? Hopefully not some piece of "public art" to be vandalises</p>
0	<p>Leave it as it is thank you very much and if you must insist on spending tax payers money spend it on something that directly benefits an already struggling community instead of the two stone gateways that resemble the welcome to Keswick bloody gateways that you have been dying to put into situ for several years now. Stop trying to dress it up as something it is not and insulting the intelligence of the good people of this town.</p>
0	<p>Leave it as it is-perhaps a map of the town. Use your influence to get the street cleaned and maintained.</p>
0	<p>Leave that area of Townsfoot green! 20mph traffic calming and enforcement is all that is needed!</p>
0	<p>I totally agree with the premise of bringing people into Alston, but I feel the Town Foot could be used for a better purpose, either as a parking area for all the cars that belong to those people living on Town Foot – they should each have a signed designated space with bollards if necessary, or as I have always said, there should be a road from down at Town Willows all the way along the back of the houses up to the back of the Cumberland, so each house would have easy access from the rear and somewhere to park their cars – the land on the playing fields immediately behind Town Foot and Station road is not fit for purpose anyway, it is always boggy and not easy to walk on, so to use part of this would be no great lose.</p> <p>Anyway, back to the allotted space – why not use as a picnic space with stone tables and seats, not so easy to vandalize and we do have Alston Stone to accommodate us and they would be more sustainable and not easy to move (or be stolen!), Big signposting at the bottom of the Town would help, when I was on duty for the Art display that is usually on in August in St. Augustines, one man came in and told me that he had driven through Alston for 5 years on his</p>

	<p>way from Newcastle to visit his Brother in Keswick and he never knew that Alston had a main street or that there was anything actually up there, but he was thirsty and was looking for something to drink, so he thought there may be a cafe up the street – he was very impressed to find an Art Exhibition and Cafe's and Life up the street! This was about 8 years ago and I gave him a Coffee and he gave me a £5.00 donation for the Church – a good outcome all round. May I add that I have had the idea for some time that as we have a great talent of Artists in the area and have our own Art Group, who meet here at the Brewery every month – why not use their talents – for example there is the Tyne Cafe, the Old Foundry and St. Pauls – all with broken windows and lowering the tone of the Town, why not get our Artists on tap to paint some interesting Murals incorporating all the ideas you have of the interests in and around Alston(incorporating items A to E of course)and cover all the windows of these derelict buildings and make them more interesting, they could be eye-catching and tell a story of the town.</p>
0	No section for no sign
0	Please just leave well alone and stop unnecessary development - you will destroy what character is left of Alston.
0	Please leave well alone, all the suggestions would be of detriment to Alston. A green open space is ideal, what we have is perfect
0	Please leave something of Alston as it is - this works perfectly as an open area an change would be to the detriment of Alston.
0	Remove the grass and provide parking bays for residents opposite - not public parking. The street is very narrow & obstructed by cars parked along the roadside. Then double yellow lines. Stone seats moved onto corner.
0	Speed cameras are needed on what is already a dangerous junction. Additional unnecessary distraction which obscures the view of the road is not required and not safe.
0	Stupid idea.
0	This project is not what we want. This green area needs to be left alone. I think it is a waste of money that should be spent elsewhere.
0	Time the house owners were given help and money in the form grants for the listed status houses / buildings to bring them back into useable accommodation for the windows and works needing done after all front street many properties were bought by developers and sold on people are having to sell their homes because you can't get contractors or afford the cost of the wooden sash windows even buying them you can't get them fitted correctly and that's no easy task for vulnerable people in ill health. I can't find a builder. Salvin Cottage needs to be upgraded urgently. I will pay my share but no more. townfoot looks a shambles needs investment to keep people living there we don't need a monument or art or alike we need investment in windows doors and external fronts of the listed buildings guttering roofs etc what's the point in an expensive useless monument for people who don't live there when people who live there pay council tax have to live next to derelict listed buildings it's those that need investment and no doubt will cost more than the cost of windows for all the houses on townfoot!
0	I would like to see a good tree for longevity and clean air surrounded by plants, bulbs, lots of inviting colour. Maybe a bench for communal purposes.
0	+ 24 with no comments

19th Mar 2021