

# LOCAL NEWS

## HUMSHAUGH WARD

DELIVERED BY VOLUNTEERS FOLLOWING  
COVID-SECURE GUIDELINES AT ALL TIMES



**Nick Morphet**  
Your Green campaigner

## OUR FOOD SYSTEM IS UNDER THREAT

The Agriculture Bill has now become law. Unfortunately, the amendments that would have prevented the importation of food produced to lower environmental, food safety and animal welfare standards were **blocked by Conservative MPs** - including our own.

If these **low quality food imports** reach our shelves it would affect us all as consumers. It would also undercut UK farmers on price, forcing them to lower their standards to compete. The UK would be complicit in animal welfare and environmental abuse in other countries.



Nick helping with deliveries

Buying **high quality, locally grown food** supports our local farmers, is better for the environment and is better for our health. Short supply chains are more resilient to the threats to food security posed by pandemics and climate change.

Local Green campaigner, **Nick Morphet**, feels so strongly about this that he helped a local organic veg box scheme with their deliveries during lockdown.

The Trade Bill is still in progress, and **our food system is still at risk**. Visit <https://www.sustainweb.org> to get involved.

## HEXHAM FRESH FOOD BANK TO THE RESCUE!

Many of those lucky enough to have a garden took to growing their own food during lockdown, and Hexham resident Ginnie O'Farrell (pictured) is helping them share surplus produce with those experiencing financial hardship. Ginnie created **Hexham Fresh Food Bank** in April, and dozens of gardeners have since signed up to the scheme. Instead of going to waste, their surplus food is distributed via the **West Northumberland Food Bank**.



Ginnie says "Our growers reduce food waste while providing fresh produce to those in need - everything about it is a win". Visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hexhamfreshfoodbank> to sign up as a grower and <https://www.westnorthumberlandfoodbank.org.uk> for support.

# INNOVATIVE TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS

Coronavirus has made life harder for those who rely on public transport, but Green campaigner **Nick Morphet** is working hard to provide solutions. When the council announced a trial road closure in Hexham town centre, some residents with mobility issues felt that they would struggle to get into town. Nick and his friends responded by creating **Active Travel Tynedale** to raise funds for an electric cycle rickshaw. They hope to use this to provide a clean, green taxi service around town. They also hope to provide an electric cargo bike delivery service.



Nick testing a cargo bike

## DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT BY WINTER FLOODS!

The **flood season** has arrived, and now's the time to prepare for whatever the winter has in store. One in ten homes are built on land at risk of flooding, rainfall is getting heavier due to climate change and there has been a widespread failure to implement effective natural flood solutions. This is **Nick's six-step plan for flood-preparedness**.

- 1) Check the long-term flood risk for your area: <https://bit.ly/2GKjzM9>
- 2) Sign up to flood warnings for your home and/or business: <https://bit.ly/35fjcme>
- 3) Learn how to protect your home: <https://bit.ly/3paDtkR>, or phone 01299 403055
- 4) Arrange a home survey and/or the installation of flood protection measures, via:
  - The Blue Pages directory: <http://bluepages.org.uk>, or phone 01299 403055
  - The Property Care Association: <https://bit.ly/3naZApl>, or phone 01480 400000
  - Watertight: <https://bit.ly/3pfdY1Z>, or phone 0800 0211732
  - Lakeside Flood Solutions: <https://bit.ly/2Uo6wDz>, or phone 01792 561117
- 5) Check that you're insured against flood damage. For help finding insurance, visit:
  - Blue Pages Insurance: <https://bit.ly/3lfvLmZ>, or phone 01299 403055
  - National Flood Forum Insurance: <https://bit.ly/3n6Myt9>
  - Flood Re: <https://www.floodre.co.uk>
- 6) For real-time flood warnings, phone Floodline on 0345 9881188 or go to: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings>

## CAN I HELP?



If you have a comment or query, I would love to hear from you!

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## NICK MORPHET: STANDING UP FOR HUMSHAUGH