

Killingworth Community Conversation
9th December 2013
White Swan Centre, Killingworth

Present: Cllr Gary Bell (Chair), Cllr Linda Darke, Cllr Alison Waggott-Fairley, Angela Gent, Julie Denton, David Hall, Steven Lyttle, Andy Burnett, Richard Martin, Chris Bishop, Nick Saunders, Jim Grady (Nexus), Linzie Pendleton (Northumbrian Water) and 16 Residents

1. Welcome

Cllr Bell opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

2. Community Conversations

Cllr Bell explained that the council has moved to ward-based engagement and has launched two new ways that residents can engage with the council in their local communities.

'Community Conversations' offer opportunities for conversations between ward councillors and the public about issues that matter, with sessions organised for all 20 wards in the borough.

Each month the Elected Mayor, Norma Redfearn, will also host a **'Listening Event'**, giving residents an opportunity to come along and talk to her and members of her Cabinet about what is important to them, and how they think the council is doing.

3. Nexus Update

Jim Grady provided a brief update. There was a statutory consultation on Quality Bus Contracts which links to the Quality Partnership. The data is currently being analysed and the decision is planned for mid 2015.

There is no change to local services in this area.

Gates are being installed at Metro stations which will be locked down in January. If you have a plastic gold card it will go straight through, the paper cards will be okay as gates are manned. Metro fares will increase by 2.5% on January 2nd.

Jim opened the floor to questions.

Question	Is the system the same at 1980, pre-deregulation?
Response	In the first year the services will remain. Nexus will have a look at what fares are generated before decisions will be taken.
Question	The bus to Freeman Road Hospital goes up Matthew Bank, could it go straight to the Freeman?
Response	They are commercial routes so you would have to approach Stage Coach.
Question	Service 53 to Rake Lane isn't available any more.
Response	There has been consultation to move the 59 service but it can't be moved as far as here.

Question	Why can't the 53 still go there?
Response	We've asked them and they say they can't.
Question	Can we look forward to a better system?
Response	It depends on the decision.

4. Flooding Update

Cllr Bell introduced Richard Martin, Andy Burnett and Linzie Pendleton and noted apologies from the Richard Robinson from the Environment Agency as they were dealing with the major flooding from the previous week and some major civil engineering defence repairs.

Andy Burnett delivered an update on the affected areas in Killingworth ward, in particular Garth 22 and Otterburn Close.

Question	I understand you only have one gully machine in North Tyneside and how often does it clean each area?
Response	Once every 18 months and major routes are cleaned once every 6 months. Tree-lined routes are also every 6 months. We are investing in a new machine that tells you how often each gully needs to be cleaned. We also have a road sweeper which takes the leaves away.
Question	I live in Otterburn Close and the water was up to my knees – how can a culvert take that much water away?
Response	It is designed to do that.
Question	I was never consulted on the play site, who said it should be there? I didn't want the park there.
Question	I asked an officer at Ivy Road School if he could take over the works from the Environment Agency.
Response	We can't do that.
Question	Well that's not what they said to me, we're at a standstill.
Response	We are getting somewhere because the EA have acknowledged there's an issue with the culvert. It is a main river, we have to go through the proper channels.
Question	Are you going to lower the field?
Response	Yes the works are planned for the field.
Question	Have you scrapped the idea of putting a bund around the field?
Response	We thought the field would end up being a lake.
Question	There used to be someone who came around to treat the weeds and we haven't seen him for months.
Response	We will feed this back.

Cllr Bell summarised the discussion and stressed the importance of the EA involvement in the Otterburn scheme.

Comment	This will take years.
Response	As the EA have accepted responsibility we're in a better position to progress.

5. North Tyneside Local Plan

David Hall and Steven Lyttle gave a short presentation about the North Tyneside Local Plan. Information on this will be given to every household in North Tyneside and there is also information in the libraries and on the website.

Question	What thought has been given to road networks?
Response	We have to look at the impacts on every level e.g. schools, GPs, roads etc and where there is an identified need, we ask the developer to pay a contribution to mitigate any negative impact.
Question	If you're looking at 10-12,000 new homes, where are you projections for roads?
Response	We work with all people involved and these things are always considered as part of planning applications.
Question	Have you given any thought to the impact of the plans?
Response	We look at this when we get to the detail following the consultation.
Question	Can I give you an example? The old MOD site on Killingworth Road is being sold and there is a preferred purchaser who will look to build 500 homes. The road that serves it is not suitable for that site. The feeding road will be Great Lime Road which is also not suitable.
Response	Cllr Bell explained what would happen with such a planning application at committee.
Question	I accept all of that but we're talking about 12,000 houses, you must think about now. I have no objection to development as long as it's for the benefit of communities.
Response	Steven explained the new community infrastructure levy which will have a broader vision that section 106.
Question	How many junctions on the worst side of the A19 are you envisaging?
Response	I can't see any more junctions as there isn't room for it. We are looking at improved infrastructure for the network, e.g. Silverlink roundabout.
Question	We've had a gentleman here tonight talking about reduced bus services. What concerns me is the number of developments you've got with no infrastructure policy to go with it.
Response	Even if there is a piecemeal approach there is a master plan alongside it.
Question	But this is your master plan and there is nothing overseeing it.
Response	This is a document for consultation, it can't cover all the detail in it, that exists at a lower level where the detail is covered. We are consulting people and landowners on all aspects.
Question	Does the house builder design the layout of the plot?
Response	We would outline the key principles and identify the priorities of it.
Question	I notice in the list some of the existing industrial sites are listed as employment/residential, are they going to be specifically designed as one of the other?
Response	Through this we're trying to open up the options but there will be a definitive.
Question	There will be a change of use of these sites, what claw back will there be from the landowner.
Response	At the minute it's limited in terms of the increase in value the site may

	have.
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6. Blucher Project

Chris Bishop provided an update on the Blucher project. In the 1980s the Blucher structure was taken down and stored at the Stephenson Railway Museum.

Over a number of years I've been lobbied by the Killingworth Local History Society to bring it back into use.

In 2014 it will be 200 years since the invention of the Blucher locomotive. Our ambition is that the sculpture will be positioned on Southgate roundabout. We have been through the planning process and have full planning permission. We prepared a pre-application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, which was received favourably.

We have now submitted a full Heritage Lottery Fund bid and we're expecting the decision by the end of January. The bid includes a number of elements:

- Restore the Blucher sculpture in 2014 to mark the anniversary.
- Install heritage interpretation to tell the story.
- An exhibition will tour a number of venues e.g. White Swan Centre, local schools to tell the story of the Stephensons.
- A book will be produced on steam and rail transport in North Tyneside involving local people/writers.
- An educational project with George Stephenson High School using digital media.
- A tour of Stephenson assemblies will visit all schools in the George Stephenson pyramid for younger children.
- A performance, similar to what we did around the Hartley Pit Disaster at Seaton Delaval Hall. We will be putting a bid into the Arts Council with North Tyneside Community Theatre.

I hope to come back early next year with positive news.

Question	Dial Cottage is a mess, it needs to be tidied up.
Response	We would like to explore options for it in the future e.g. Friends of group.
Question	I thought it belonged to North Tyneside Council.
Response	It's complicated, what I must say it is significant and would like it to be more so in the future.
Question	I'm pleased to hear about what you're doing and it's good to hear. It would be lovely to have Dial Cottage back to how it should be and I wish you well.
Question	Could the theatre group perform at White Swan Centre?
Response	It would certainly be our choice.

7. Parking

Nick Saunders delivered an update on parking restrictions plans in Killingworth ward.

The full list of requests for waiting/permit parking restrictions in Killingworth ward to date is as follows:

1. Citadel East (outside GP surgery)
2. Garth 24
3. Garth 21/The Croft
4. Kelvin Place
5. Swindale Drive (bend at Buttermere Close)
6. Palm Court
7. Windsor Place
8. Great Lime Road (adjacent to Palmersville Metro Station)
9. Leybourne Dene

These requests are due to be considered in the new financial year beginning in April 2014. Site visits/surveys will be conducted to determine which type of restriction, if any, would be appropriate. Schemes will then be developed and implemented subject to cabinet and member approval, sufficient funding being made available and the results of statutory consultation exercises.

The only scheme being progressed in Killingworth ward in the current financial year is the proposal to introduce waiting restrictions on Great Lime Road in the vicinity of Sambucas Restaurant. The legal orders associated with these restrictions are due to be advertised on site and in the local press in the next few weeks.

Question	What are the solutions to your problems?
Response	Depends on the situation.
Question	Schools, GP surgeries – wherever? North Tyneside Council exacerbated the problem when first schools were changed to primary.
Question	The traffic through the centre was redirected East or West around the shopping centre. East and West roads are causing traffic snarls. My request was to ask at least double yellow lines on East and West Bailey.
Response	We are looking at East Bailey as it's currently the busiest.

8. Open Question Time

Cllr Bell asked if there were any additional questions.

Question	When we had a meeting at Ivy Road an officer said the field would be lowered but an officer tonight has said that nothing will happen until the stream is cleared.
Response	They're starting work on the field in January 2014. We have a good knowledge of the issues.

Cllr Bell closed the meeting.