

**Notes of Community Conversation**  
**Valley Ward**  
**30<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

Present: Cllr Carole Burdis, Cllr Brian Burdis (Chair), Bev Oakley, Felicity Shoesmith, Cait Foley, Paul Fleming, Andrew Burnett, Neil Cole, Claire Dobinson-Booth, Rachael Watts, Jim Grady and 24 local residents.

Apologies: Cllr Tommy Mulvenna

**1. Welcome, Housekeeping and Community Conversations**

Cllr Brian Burdis welcomed everyone to the very first Community Conversation. He stated that these meetings will update people on local issues and allow residents to have a say and help shape decisions in their local area.

**2. Local Issues Update**

Introductions were given by Shiremoor Credit Union and Sarah Compton the Community Organiser for this area.

**Jim Grady Nexus Community Relations Officer** provided an update on the number 59 bus service. The service 59 currently operates from Backworth to Whitley Bay via Shiremoor. Since Arriva changed their bus services in September much of the route is now duplicated by the service 54.

Nexus have just launched a consultation to changes to routes in this area, following feedback from local residents. There is a proposal (Option A) to alter the route of the service 59 after 9:30 am and before 4pm in order to afford the residents of West Allotment and Marden Estate direct access to North Tyneside General Hospital. If this proposal is accepted then it will mean that the service will operate through West Allotment and will no longer operate to Shiremoor or Whitley Bay.

A further proposal (Option B) is that the service could operate through West Allotment, omitting Shiremoor but still going to Whitley Bay as present:

Option C is to keep the route in its present form. Jim asked everyone present to fill in the short survey which is being shared across the affected areas in the borough. Jim emphasised that this is the “peoples choice” so it is very important to have your say and get forms filled in and returned by the closing date: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December

**Cllr Carole Burdis** shared more information about the council’s new ways of listening to people. Community Conversations and the Mayors Listening Events are new ways that residents can have their say.

**4. Flooding update – Paul Fleming and Andy Burnett**

Officers discussed the leaflet that everyone had a copy of at the meeting regarding reducing the risk of flooding.

Residents highlighted areas to officers of concern which included Bywell Grove, Lesbury Avenue and on the road outside the Blue Bell public house.

Q	A Resident (MM) explained that in 2005 was the first time she was flooded and she lost everything and nearly 9 years have gone by and 5 times more have been flooded Why is it taking so long to get a solution?
A	We now have a dedicated team who are prioritising the work and we have an action plan that we work to progress issues.
Q	I have lived here 33 years and we have never had problems until Northumberland park was built.
A	Cllr Brian Burdis responded we have a meeting organised on the 14 <sup>th</sup> November where we can discuss this further with representatives of the Shiremoor Residents Flood Action Group.
Q	Adverse weather happens we understand that but surely when man hole covers are flying off there is a problem with drains that need to be cleaned out.
A	Part of the funding that comes from central government has been used to purchase gully wagons to do this and will be focusing on all the areas that have been flooded. We can do quick fixes such as the cleaning of the gullies but its worth noting that there were 895 separate incidents in the borough for flooding we have a model of priorities in four main areas spending 4 million over 4 years.
Q	Nothing seems to happen in Shiremoor but Chicken Road gets all the attention.
A	This is not the case, Shiremoor is a priority area and we are doing things across North Tyneside focusing on the communities that have been most affected.
Q	You mention model in 4 areas of priority it concerns me the absence of time the pot of 4 million doesn't expand, its a bit like a triage system every time floods happen people are being affected and they will then move up or down the list?
A	Can I refer you to the flooding document which describes the plan for what is happening in the Valley Ward?
Q	I tried to access this document on internet and I could read it on the web.
A	I will feedback that issue.
Q	Last 3 times flooding has occurred they have pumped water over the bridge this then floods gardens.
A	It goes around the back of properties so houses are kept as safe as possible.
C	It won't cope
A	We are working to develop the culvert that runs under Shiremoor so it will be able to handle extra water combined with the work NWL are doing to improve

	sewers.
Q	Pumping across the bridge which the fire service does is causing another problem.
Q	West Allotment flooded twice Longbenton Road 8 neighbours and I had 6-7 inches in our home but there is no mention of West Allotment in the document. Why is this?
A	The document only shows current proposals there are no proposals for West Allotment at the moment. Members and officers created a priority system to deal with areas where the most properties were flooded first.
Q	We are just one area but Murray field is mentioned.
A	We are investigating all areas that have been affected. We are keen to hear from people about their experiences which will help build a better picture of affected areas.
Q	There is a culvert here, doesn't this affect flooding?
A	All the areas that have been mentioned are on a priority list.
Q	I have lived in Backworth for 30 years but there have never been any problems like we have now – Northumberland Park is the problem. 10-15 years ago should have thought better about building new houses. It's like putting sticky plasters on the situation. All of the water is going through narrow pipes and it will just get worse.
Q	Whoever allowed the West Allotment development they should be brought into explain to everyone why. The Culvert runs under the Health Centre at Shiremoor and private property so you would need to get legal advice and be very careful. Secondly the Blue Bell area Shiremoor residents group have lodged a complaint as 14 properties discharging into sewer. NWL have already said pipes are inadequate but have sanctioned this planning application how? Colleagues in NWL have said the drainage is fine but it still floods. Council and water authority need massive capital investment; it's ridiculous, properties are devalued and very soon residents won't be able to insure properties.
A	Cllr Brian Burdis said that the council were working with its partners to address issues and we would provide updates over the coming months. The Shiremoor Residents Flood action group had requested a meeting with Alan Campbell MP their ward councillors, the council, Capita and other organisations working to address the flooding issues in Shiremoor. This was taking place on the 14 <sup>th</sup> November.

## 5. Local Plan – Neil Cole

Neil explained what is to be covered in the Consultation on the North Tyneside Local Plan which starts from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November until January 6<sup>th</sup> 2014.

Q	Regarding houses how many will be council houses?
A	That number is inclusive of the total housing requirement we are looking to deliver i.e. between 10 500 and 12 000 – the 3 000 homes could be delivered through a variety of mechanisms – the Council’s own build programme, through private sector development building the affordable housing for us – looking to deliver 3 000 council homes and 13 000 private. We as a council are looking to deliver below that level.
	Cllr Carole Burdis spoke about UDP explaining how important it is about to take part in this consultation. Residents must have their say to shape things please fill in your forms and return them to the Council.
Q.	I can access a computer what about others who can not?
A	Electronically is only one form of sharing this information, hard copies will be available in libraries across the borough. A leaflet about the North Tyneside Local Plan will be going out to every household with a tear off slip to return with comments.  The information will also be on the councils website, this site is speak enabled which means that it can translate the information into different languages and larger print.
Q	The North Tyneside Local Plan information here is in 4 different areas. If Whitley Bay and Killingworth are joined up lots of local area characters will be lost.
A	There have been no decisions taken at this point as to which sites are to be taken forward. That is the purpose of the consultation. When the previous Unitary Development Plan was prepared in the early 1990s, we would have been required to demonstrate to an Inspector then, that we had sufficient long term development opportunities that would mean we did not have to development into the Green Belt in the long term. Hence, we identified areas such as those around Murton and Killingworth as ‘safeguarded’ land. The intention being then that these areas would be considered as part of any review of the Plan in the long term to meet our longer term development needs. It was never the intention that ‘safeguarded’ land was to be treated as sacrosanct. We are now in that position where the Plan is being reviewed and we need to find land to meet our needs to 2030. Hence, these areas and others, are now being explored as part of a suite of wider options.  Whilst we propose to provide between 10,500 and 12,000 new homes, once existing planning permissions are taken off along with sites that are still under construction, we would actually need to find new sites that could accommodate between 8,125 and 9,625 homes. So its important for us to identify the best sites, otherwise, developers will pick us off.
Q	Our experience in Backworth was where we opposed a development, all parties were against it but the Duke of Northumberland still got his way and the development took place.

A	We need to be within planning law.
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## 6. Open Floor Questions

The Chair thanked the speakers and then asked if anyone had any other questions to raise.

Q	There are problems with traffic along Backworth Lane and parking issues. It would be good to have traffic cameras that work. Most of the time the batteries run out.
Q	There is flooding when buses go past there. It could be useful to have a speed gun to record what is happening. There should be traffic calming measures.
Q	I would like to make an observation that on Park Lane there are no white markings. What about car drivers parking on pavements, as they are particularly dangerous? What can we do as residents, should we take photos of bad parking of cars on pavements?
A	Road markings on Park Lane will be put back, we just waiting for the right weather to do this. The variable speed measures for traffic operate on the volume of traffic. There is a company who change batteries for us. I will ask them to look at this – and if the batteries do run out please let us know so we can arrange for them to be replaces.
A	We can change speed limit and work with police to discuss enforcement issues.
	Cllr Carole Burdis stated that if you have any issues re parking, the Police have said if there is an obstruction say if a wheel chair or pram can't get past then you can call the police. We will ask the police to come to the next community conversations meeting to discuss this in more detail.
Q	Culverts opposite the car wash are always flooded; it's collapsing underground and the road is in a dangerous state.
A	We know about this but it is a low priority. If it collapsed it would be off the road side.
Q	The water comes through the golf course. If the wall comes down who is responsible?
A	The landowner
C	The water comes from the road so I do not think the landowner can do anything about this.
Q	There are problems with the speed bumps on Lesbury Avenue. Drivers avoid going over them but pulling up and driving along the curb.

A	Putting in bollards would be an obvious solution. We would need to know if this happens a lot.
C	Drivers use Lesbury Avenue as a short cut when the lights are on red on the bridge. They nip down Lesbury Avenue  At the next meeting please could we have the names and contact details of all the council officers at the start? It was agreed that this would happen.
	Cllr Carole Burdis – Can we invite anyone who hasn't spoken tonight to raise their question now or if not we are keen for you to fill in your feedback forms.
C	What bothers me is poor maintenance by council of shrubs and bushes; you can't get along paths. There needs to be more maintenance; pavements are a disgrace. I have emailed NTC but not heard back. I feel this area is forgotten but the council estate along the road is well maintained.
C	Exactly, the issues between Northumberland Park and Earsdon in the winter are terrible; the brambles prevent you walking near the wall.

### **Proposed Agenda for next meeting**

- Flooding
- Traffic issues
- Roads and Highways

### **7. Thanks and Close**

Cllr Brian Burdis thanked everyone for coming along and then formally closed the meeting.