

Chirton Grange

Residents meeting 4th December 2013.

St Aiden's Church Hall

People Present:

Cllr Steve Cox (Chair), Cllr Martin Rankin, Sgt Guy Morgan, Northumbrian Police; Sally Youden, Northumbria Police; Wayne Young, NTC; Mark Blacklock, NTC; Shaun Creaby, NTC; Colin Boxshall, NTC; Graeme Hurst, Fire and Rescue, Vicki Nixon, NTC; Felicity Shoosmith, NTC; Richard Davison, Northumbrian Water plus 10 residents.

The aim of the meeting was to update residents following a meeting on 12th June 2013.

There were further incidents on the 4th and 5th November 2013.

Update from the Police:

In the run up to the 4/5th November the Police had been working with the Council and Fire Service to raise awareness of issues linked to Bonfire night.

On the 4th and 5th November the Police did respond to calls from residents and this also included support from the Fire Service. A decision had been made following a risk assessment that no life was at risk from the fires and as a result they were not immediately put out.

The Police acknowledged that the 4/5 November is a difficult period but over the past year the number of recorded incidents had decreased from the year before and a wide range of work was being carried out to continue to reduce incidents. This will continue.

Fire Service:

From the 28th October to 5th November the Fire Service does some targeted work on removing wood / rubbish build in areas of open land as well as materials stored on local authority dwellings by residents.

Over the bonfire period of 4/5th November the fire service received over 600 calls and this means that they need to target their activity. This is done by carrying out a risk assessment identifying if there is any risk to life by appliances or officers attached to the incident. In Chirton Grange following a risk assessment no risk to life was identified. As a result the fires were not extinguished on the two occasions referred to.

Question: I phoned the fire station directly and was told to phone 999.

Response: Due to the potential for no personnel to be working on station, all emergency calls must be directed to the 999 system.

Safer Estates:

From September Shaun Creaby is the new housing patch manager and has been the main contact for the Chirton Grange area.

Working across the partnership a number of anti-social behaviour injunctions have been taken out excluding people from the Estate who have engaged in anti-social behaviour. The Safer Estate Team work across all tenures and there have been 6 people in this area subject to injunctions which could result in eviction if their anti-social behaviour continues. In addition 2 North Tyneside Home tenants have left their property rather than be taken to court to address anti social behaviour.

Information on nuisance households and individuals associated with crime and anti-social behaviour on the estate is shared at regular safer estate meetings with the police where joint action is agreed to resolve the issues.

Housing Patch Team:

Since June over 50 Anti Social Behaviour complaints have been received, 18 of these are still on going. The Council works with the Police to collect evidence of the issues and get people to commit to a signed acceptable behaviour agreement.

There are 6 young people who have signed acceptable behaviour agreements and a further 10 where letters have been sent to parents.

Police:

The Youth Offending Team have also run a course on the impact of Anti Social Behaviour and the Police have been working with Wallsend Boys Club to provide a range of diversionary activities. They are also looking for funding for anti loitering devices.

Safer Estates:

In July an operation respect was undertaken, when the Police and Safer Estates woke people up at 7a.m. in the morning to issue warning. Recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour are not closed until they are resolved.

Police:

We recognise that there was an issue on the 4/5 November, but the incidents of anti social behaviour are down. Chirton Grange has been and continues to be one of the main Policing Priorities for the Neighbourhood Team. It is really important that residents report any incident.

Residents: Whilst you tell us it is better, it does not feel this way when you live on the estate.

Northumbrian Water:

The incidents on the 4/5 took place on Northumbrian Water land. Following bonfire night Northumbrian Water tried to remove as much of the rubbish as possible, however the field was very wet and they could not get a van on to remove some of the larger items.

Northumbrian Water are looking to block the access off from the site of the old abandoned reservoir. They will be on site next week and hope to start the work in January. One of the options they're exploring for the field is to block it off completely, although due to legal reasons (there are three rights of way) it may not be possible to do this so another option they are exploring is to plough the field and leave the rights of way in as footpaths across it.

Question: This has been promised before but never happened, how do we know that it will happen this time?

Response: Because the work is about to start, this will happen over the next few months.

Statement by a Resident: Unless the whole thing is fenced off there will be an on going issues

Response: That is the reason we are aiming to block off the site

Question: Do the trees belong to the Council or Northumbrian Water.

Response: They are on Northumbrian Water land. Before they can be cut down a bat survey needs to be carried out.

Resident: I don't bother phoning to report anti social behaviour for two reasons, the Police don't respond or if they do they come to your house to tell you what they have done. The young people see the Police coming to your front door and then you are targeted.

Safer Estates:

It is really important that people do report incidents, as this gives the evidence needed to do something about it.

Question: How do people find out about public meetings?

Response: In terms of Police meetings the information is on the Northumbria Police website. The ward councillors also hold surgeries and the dates and times for these is on the website and in public buildings. The councillors will also be holding "community conversations, the next one of these is on Tuesday 10th December at St Aiden's.

Residents suggested have a further community meeting to update on actions. This will take place on May / June 2014.

The Ward Councillors and Council have been working closely with Northumbrian Water, Northumbria Police and the Fire and Rescue service to address residents concerns in the Chirton Grange area of the Collingwood Ward. A residents meeting was held in December 2013 to give an update on this work.

If anyone has any concerns they can speak to the Ward Councillors or contact the Police by phone on 101