

Collingwood Community Conversation – Notes

10th December 2013

Councillors, Officers and Partners present

Cllr Martin Rankin (Chair), Cllr Steve Cox, Bev Oakley (NTC), Sarah Owen (NTC), Laura Hewitt (Capita), Caroline Grist (Capita), Richard Martin (Capita), Andrew Mollen (Capita), Jim Grady (Nexus), 9 Residents

Apologies: Cllr Jeanette Pickard

Cllr Rankin opened the meeting by explaining that this was a new way of listening to residents and was part of the Elected Mayors commitment to give residents opportunities to be listened to. This is particularly important due to the financial situation where the Council will have to make 64 million pounds of savings over the next few years.

Nexus

Jim Grady from Nexus gave a short presentation about a consultation, urging all present to complete a short survey. In addition he gave an update on new pricing that will start in January 2014. Jim also updated all regarding changes to the number 59 service highlighting to all to fill in the survey.

Q	We use 59 Bus from Murton Village to Metro station at Northumberland park will this still be a route?
A	Minimal change it will still go to Northumberland Park.

Flooding Update – Andrew Mollen

Andrew Mollen explained that over the past few years we have seen an increase in the effect of flooding, on the 28th June 2012 over 900 properties right across North Tyneside were flooded. We have been working hard to develop ways of reducing the risk of flooding to peoples' properties. The Council have invested over £4 million on reducing the risk of flooding to residents' homes and this will result in over 80 different schemes, including 5 major schemes. As well as engineering solutions we have improved gulley cleaning and have been working more closely with other partners, including Northumbria Water.

	A resident thanked Andrew for the update and wished it to be noted that an event that was held earlier in the month at Murton Village about flooding was very well done and had left residents with positive messages.
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Local Plan – Laura Hewitt and Caroline Grist

Laura Hewitt and Caroline Grist provided an update on the North Tyneside Local Plan – explaining that full information on this was available on the website and in libraries, summary leaflets have been distributed to all North Tyneside households. This plan will be for the next 15 years after its proposed adoption in late 2015. The consultation is about identifying land for development and the proposed policies of the Local Plan that will guide planning decisions in the future.. It is important that residents tell us what they think. The consultation closes in early January.

Q	Why preserve Whitley Bay Town Centre there is not much there?
A	We need to Protect viability of all the town centres, as set out in Government guidance. The town provides an important resource for the community, especially those who live near and those unable to or don't want to travel to supermarkets.
Q	I don't think Whitley Bay has much to offer in shops I think you should knock it all down and build houses?
A	There are some nice places to shop in Whitley Bay such as the Whitley Bay Shopping centre on Park View?
Q	Yes but council should not be using resources for regenerating as most people shop in supermarkets so regenerating is a drain and not necessary, most of the shops in Whitley Bay are second hand charity shops. Convert shops to residential.
A	Cllr Rankin advised that the council has very little control over the usage of buildings that are owned by private individuals
Q	Council support these charity shops hundreds of pounds are wasted on shops that don't generate. Perhaps if you go to Tynemouth they have lots of individual specialised shops but saying that most people use supermarkets.
A	Cllr Rankin advised that a number of bars in Whitley Bay are being converted to residential properties as more people want to live in the area now.
Q	Regarding Water and flooding issues if the size of the sewer that takes water is at capacity for who it serves should we not build a new sewer?
A	Any new development, under regulations, have to ensure that the sewer can cope and ensure that this is considered before any planning permissions are given. They also need to ensure that other flooding prevention takes place including storage tanks.
Q	Believe this was carried out in Shiremoor big tanks near the Blue Bell.

A	That's right but climate change is affecting all measures that are currently in place all new developments need to include measures to prevent flooding and not create any further water run-off than present, e.g. a storage tank to hold water during a storm.
Q	Are there any plans for housing near to the Brigg site?
A	Cllr Cox gave an update. There is a plan in principle for 32 housing units subject to planning permission which will include flats, bungalows and apartments works to start April 2014.
Q	Concerned there are not enough play sites
A	Within this new development there will be a small play site built in. There has to always be enough community infrastructure e.g. schools and play sites when planning is considered.
Q	What about historic sites
A	These are always taken into consideration. The Local Plan contains policies to protect them.
Q	What about green belt and green field sites?
A	Green belt between urban areas stays to stop urban sprawl so we don't merge. There are no plans to make any changes to the Green belt. Green field is different and is not as well protected as the Green Belt, but the Local Plan will still contain policies to correctly manage open space.
Q	(Resident asked as looking at the Big Map on display) Collingwood doesn't seem to have much Brown field?
A	There are some Brown field bits but not a lot in this area has been identified as available for development in the next 15 years. The main area identified as available for development in the next 15 years is around Murton. This is currently "safeguard land", which means that it was identified in the Unitary Development Plan in 2002 as not required then but will likely be needed in the future; hence why we are looking at it now.
Q	Murton is unique and we will be sad if it was built on this is why we are keeping an eye on what is happening. Is there a lot of brown field in other areas?
A	Most of brown field sites are along the coast, generally areas with decline in industry or in need of regeneration. There is a site in Killingworth and also North Shields past Tesco near the old Welch's factory site (West Chirton). Planning policy dictates that we would normally look to develop brown field sites first but planning applications have to be viable, also the amount of available brown field land is not enough to provide the homes needed in the future so we have to

	look towards green field sites too.
Q	What about the Avenue at Whitley Bay?
A	Council are including this in the Dome developments.

AOB

Cllr Rankin gave an update that a clean up day was scheduled for the 18th December around the Chirton Grange Area.

Cllr Rankin thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded.