

## Community Conversation Cullercoats Ward 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013

**People Present:** Cllr Ken Barrie (Chair), Cllr Mortimer, Cllr Westwater, Sarah Owen (NTC); Felicity Shoesmith (NTC); Martin Craddock (Capita); Caroline Grist (Capita); Rob Redpath (Capita) Rachel Dodds (Capita); Pixie Phelan (NTC); Roy Marston (NTC); Phil Jenson (NTC); Jonathan Morris (Marden High School); Inspector Jim Gray (Northumbria Police) Sergeant David Foy (Northumbria Police); Jim Grady (Nexus) and Linzie Pentleton (Northumbrian Water) plus 15 residents.

Cllr Barrie welcomed everyone to the meeting. This is the first community conversation for the Cullercoats Ward.

### **World War One Community Project.**

Jonathan Morris told the meeting about an exciting project based at Marden High, that also includes St George's Church, British Legion, Tynemouth World War One project and the Scouts.

It is at an early stage and the school would welcome any wider involvement. The project will be looking to restore the list of people from Cullercoats who lost their life in the first world war. The list of names on the war memorial outside of St Georges Church had been stolen and a bid has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for money to replace this. As part of this the school will be researching the people on the list and are really interested in hearing from anyone who has a relative on the list. The war memorial is a grade two listed monument, it is owned by the people of Cullercoats.

### **Police issues:**

Inspector Jim Gray and Sergeant David Foy gave an update on policing in the Cullercoats area. This is the responsibility of the Whitley Bay Neighbourhood Team. Compared to 5 years ago overall crime is down by about 50%. However there has been a slight increase in crime during this financial year, compared to last year. All crimes reported to the Police are investigated with a detection rate of around 50%. North Tyneside continues to be the safest MBC in the country.

David Foy explained about the wide range of ways Cullercoats Bay is policed, some of which is as a result of working in a partnership with the Council, RNLi and Nexus. This includes a Coast Watch scheme which has had a positive impact on reducing anti-social behaviour. There are 2 neighbourhood beat officers appointed to Cullercoats Bay.

Problems are usually seasonal and the police have already put in place staffing plans for the 2014 season.

The Police have also been working with Nexus aimed at giving out information when someone is arriving at Cullercoats Metro. They are also looking at the alcohol exclusion warning signs between the Metro and Beach.

<b>Question:</b>	I have attended a number of meetings in the past where it was clear
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	that people did not want the Jet Skis, why can they not be moved somewhere else, the Bay should be for families and it is not safe when the Jet Skis are in the water.
<b>Response:</b>	(by Northumbria Police) our role is one of enforcement, we know that there have been meetings and have been involved but we don't make the policy.
<b>Question:</b>	Could you enforce parking infringements, some of the people with Jet Ski's cause a parking infringement.
<b>Response:</b>	(by Northumbria Police) Yes if there is an issue.
<b>Question:</b>	The Jet Skiers are meant to sign a "code of conduct" to get a permit, who enforces this?
<b>Response:</b>	If you see something that you think is in breach of the Code of conduct call the Police on 101 or let the RNLI know. If possible take a photograph as this can be important evidence, we need evidence to address concerns.
<b>Response:</b>	The Council are looking to marking out the Bay so it is clearer where the Jet Ski's can and cannot go.
<b>Additional information following the meeting:</b>	<p>The problem is taken very seriously and ways to deal with motorised leisure craft and jet skis are constantly being reviewed.</p> <p>All Motorised Leisure Craft users who sign up for a Permit to launch from Cullercoats harbour are required to conduct themselves and their activities in line with the associated regulations. The problems which are experience in the Bay and surrounding beaches are not solely associated with those using Jet Skis or Personal Watercrafts although the majority of water related issues are due to a small minority of these craft owners. As part of the regulations the permit number which is provided on a sticker is to be visibly displayed to aid identification of any craft breaching the regulations which also includes the parking below the barrier, which is more often than not undertaken by those with boats.</p> <p>Since the current regulations where introduced in 2005 at every meeting residents and harbour users have been informed that by providing this number or the towing vehicle details we can trace the offenders and take action which in the past has resulted in permits being revoked and users banned. However it is rare that these details are provided making it extremely difficult to trace offenders and take the appropriate actions if the regulation breach occurred outside of operational hours.</p> <p>Over the 2013 season there was a new Launch Operator who should have been operating from the new kiosk and Toilet facility which would have provided a presence on site to deal with any problems which occurred. This would have resulted in much better enforcement of regulation breaches by Motorised Leisure Craft users and the reporting of anti social behaviour direct to the Police resulting in quicker responses. Since the summer season the council, Police and</p>

	<p>launch operator have had regular meetings to try and address the small minority causing the problems in the bay and have come up with some further enforcement measures which will be introduced in 2014 to go with the permit regulations.</p> <p>These measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated launch times when staff are present resulting in Motorised Leisure Craft owners only having access to the launch site between specified hours after which in the evening when most of the problems occur there will be no further access.</li> <li>• A record of any craft launching being kept aiding in the identification of those breaching the regulations. This will also assist in determining if the offending craft launched from Cullercoats. We are aware of issues caused by crafts that have not launched from Cullercoats cannot be easily identified. Cullercoats is a navigable harbour on the admiralty charts so we are unable to ban Jet Skis and Personal Water Craft from entering.</li> <li>• Marker Buoys positioned outside of the Harbour and seaward of moored fishing boats signifying that all craft at this point must be doing no more than 5 mph.</li> </ul> <p>Since the current regulations were introduced the Jet Ski and Personal Water Craft problems in the harbour have dropped dramatically. Our approach has been used as best practise by the Marine Police and has been introduced by South Tyneside to deal with the problems at their launch ramp.</p> <p>With reference to relocating the launching of Motorised Leisure Craft we have no other coastal locations which present a financially feasible option or ones that don't have an impact on other beach / coastal users or the environment elsewhere along the coast. Cullercoats is a Harbour intended for the launching of boats regardless of the of the crafts designation and like all regulations it is not always straight forward or easy to enforce them, however every effort will continue to be made.</p> <p>The problems being experienced in the harbour are caused by a small group of users and when information / evidence allows are addressed but it is really important that residents / fishermen help by recording and reporting incidents.</p>
<b>Question:</b>	I would like an update on what is happening with the toilets at Cullercoats Bay
<b>Additional information</b>	In July the Council suspended work on the kiosk and toilets following objections put forward and have since been exploring whether there

<b>following the meeting:</b>	are any other options to mitigate the concerns raised. The Council have also undertaken further consultation with Cullercoats Bay Residents and visitors over the summer to assess the strength of feeling about the need for a kiosk and toilets in the Bay.  The Council's Regeneration Team have received further design information from Capita with a proposed solution for the fishing boat users that were sent to the fishermen, RNLI and Ward Councillors on 10 December for their views. The Regeneration Team have asked for comments on the new proposals by 17 January 2014. In the meantime the Council are very clear that they will not proceed with any works at the present time.
<b>Statement</b>	There needs to be a meeting about the regeneration of Cullercoats Bay to give residents some feedback on what is planned.
<b>Response:</b>	

### Nexus

Jim Grady from Nexus gave a short presentation about a current consultation, asking people to complete this and return by the end of the meeting – the consultation closes on the 13<sup>th</sup> December. He has already received a number of completed consultations from this area.

In addition he gave an update on new pricing that will start in January 2014 and other public consultations.

<b>Question:</b>	Cullercoats is half way around the line from Newcastle. Currently trains leave every 12 minutes going in each direction. Why can they not be staggered so then you could catch one every 6 minutes?
<b>Response:</b>	I will feed this into the Metro Train operators.

### Marden Quarry

A presentation was given by Pixie Phelan

The Quarry has kept its green flag status, this means it has had a green flag for 2 years and is in part in recognition of the great work by the Friends of Marden Quarry, working with the Council and wider public involvement.

<b>Question:</b>	Why is the Quarry closed during heavy rain.
<b>Response:</b>	The quarry is designed to flood, preventing flooding to properties surrounding the Quarry. After any heavy rain the paths are checked before the quarry is reopened.
<b>Question:</b>	The quarry is used by a lot of dog walkers. Some of the dogs are not on leads and this is a problem with a risk that they might knock over people.
<b>Response:</b>	We are looking at Dog Control Orders and the potential of the Park Warden being able to issue these, they carry a fixed penalty charge. These are issued if someone does not have control of their dog.

### Future Homes for older people

A presentation was given by Roy Marston and Phil Jenson. The project will result in rebuilding or refurbishing 26 schemes across North Tyneside. The two in Cullercoats are Victoria Court (which is a refurbish scheme) and Marden House, which is a new build. Victoria Court will start in April / May 2014 and will be a staged build, the most vulnerable tenants will have a choice regarding whether they move out while the refurbishment is being undertaken.

<b>Question:</b>	How will anyone new be able to move in?
<b>Response:</b>	Flats will be allocated through the usual North Tyneside Homes lettings policy.
<b>Question:</b>	What is happening at Bankside Cottages.
<b>Response:</b>	(by Cllr Westwater). Cllr Westwater has a meeting on site on Monday and invited the resident to attend.
<b>Question:</b>	When this project is completed will this meet the capacity needs for older people of North Tyneside.
<b>Response:</b>	It will meet the current need and there will be some initial capacity, but no there will still need to be further housing for older people to meet future demand.

### North Tyneside Local Plan

Martin Craddock and Caroline Grist gave a short presentation, explaining about the North Tyneside Local Plan, the reason it was needed and opportunities for people to give feedback on the current proposals.

<b>Question:</b>	Do you take into account vacant properties?
<b>Response:</b>	Yes, one of the policies is about looking at building within the Town Centres and ensuring that use is maximised.
<b>Statement:</b>	I think the focus should be on vacant properties and brown field sites
<b>Statement:</b>	By Cllr Westwater – your ward councillors want to record that they are against the proposals for Shap. We have collected views from residents in this area and this information has been fed in through the Members Enquiry system. We are also against any development at Beaconsfield. We also worry about wall to wall development and are concerned about this happening at Murton.
<b>Comment:</b>	I would like there to be consideration for a walk way to the River around the Port of Tyne.
<b>Statement:</b>	By Cllr Westwater, we are concerned that by publishing all of the potential sites you will pitch community against community and we want to avoid this.
<b>Response:</b>	110 sites have been identified, this is more that is needed and the reason for doing this is so that everyone has an opportunity to comment. No decisions have been made – we really do want residents comments which will help to identify which site will go into

	the final plan.
<b>Question:</b>	By Cllr Westwater – why have new sites come forward, they were not in the initial plan.
<b>Response:</b>	We have tried to identify all potential sites and we wanted to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to comment on everything, in addition new national guidance states that this is important.

### **Flooding:**

A presentation by Robbie Redpath (Capita) and Linzie Pentleton (Northumbrian Water). Work to reduce the risk of flooding to properties at Beachcroft has been completed, and will be actively monitored.

<b>Question:</b>	What about the bottom end of Burnside?
<b>Response:</b>	(by NWL) This is a combined drain. NWL have commissioned a study of this area which should be completed by April 2014. This should identify what needs to be done to reduce any future risks.
<b>Question:</b>	What about Hartington – there is a problem with the manhole covers – these pop up during heavy rain which creates a safety issue.
<b>Response:</b>	(by NWL) when this happens it is important that this is reported to NWL, if your property – or under your property is affected this also needs to be reported. There has been some upgrading of the drainage systems by NWL in this area and also some modelling work which might result in further work.
<b>Suggestion:</b>	Could we educate local builders to use porous paving so that water drains through this?
<b>Question:</b>	If they develop the Marden site would the developer need to put in new drains?
<b>Response:</b>	Often the development of brown field is a good way of reducing the risk of flooding, new planning rules mean that this is something that needs to be taking into account of by the planners.
<b>Question:</b>	What is happening at Broadway Close?
<b>Response:</b>	We are looking into renewing piping.

Cllr Mortimer stated that it was disappointing that more residents had not attended and suggested that in future on dark nights it might be better to aim to have the community meetings on a Saturday.

Cllr Barrie thanks everyone for attending and closed the meeting.