

Howdon, Wallsend, Northumberland and Battle Hill Elected Mayor Listens Event

Note

25 November 2015

Present: Norma Redfearn, Elected Mayor
Councillors Eddie Darke, Ray Glindon, John Harrison, Bruce Pickard,
Lesley Spillard, John Stirling and Alison Waggott-Fairley

Also in attendance:

Malcolm Frazer, Highways Team, Capita
Anne-Marie Chesterfield, Training Officer
Dan Wise, Regeneration Officer
Paul Graves, Regeneration Officer
Superintendent Peter Bent, Northumbria Police
PC Cowen, Northumbria Police
PC Bennett, Northumbria Police

Apologies: Councillors Carole Burdis and Ian Grayson

Introduction

The Elected Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained that the aim of these events was to bring the Elected Mayor and Cabinet into the community to talk to residents about what is happening in their area.

The Cabinet Members and Ward Councillors present introduced themselves and outlined their responsibilities.

Road Resurfacing

Malcolm Frazer, Highways Team, Capita, gave a presentation on road resurfacing in the area. He outlined the different stages of the programme which were 1) localised repairs; 2) planned patching programme; 3) micro-asphalt resurfacing programme; and 4) full resurfacing programme.

Mr Frazer answered various questions from residents and stated that he would follow up on the following issues that were raised:

1. Footpath Repairs - Ennerdale Gardens - bungalows that are near where pensioners live are in need of footpath repairs, lorries have damaged the area due to Sheltered Housing repairs.

Councillor Harrison agreed to look into this matter.

2. A resident raised concerns that parts of the micro resurfacing area is cracking along the Coast Road, Battle Hill and Broomfield Road.

Malcolm Frazer agreed to inspect this area.

3. At the top of Canterbury Avenue company type vans park on the grass and over the footpaths.

Malcolm Frazer to arrange an inspection. Police also advised the resident to ring 101 to report any obstruction.

4. The footpaths and roads near to Ferndale Avenue, Charlotte Street which are near the old Police Station need to be inspected as they have damage.

Malcolm Frazer agreed to inspect this area.

Dementia Friends

Anne-Marie Chesterfield, Training Officer, gave a presentation on how to become a Dementia Friend in the community. She explained the aims of Dementia Friends and outlined the key messages that people needed to know about dementia. A short film was also shown and an interactive activity undertaken.

Regeneration Update

Dan Wise and Paul Graves provided an update on regeneration projects in the area including the Swans site and the proposed new Aldi and Burger King new builds.

Dan Wise indicated that this work was due to commence on 7 December.

Open Question Time

The floor was opened up to questions from residents.

The Mayor indicated that she had received an advance question regarding parking in Burn Avenue, Wallsend and also the stream at Burn Avenue. Updates were provided on the night by Councillor Harrison.

There were also advance questions raised regarding flood alleviation works in Wallsend.

The following questions were also asked:

Footpaths on Mullen Road

An issue was raised that the footpaths on Mullen Road need repairing as a resident felt that these have been damaged by Bellway and could cause an accident.

Officers agreed to visit the site and the resident concerned.

Canterbury Avenue/Aysgarth Avenue, Hadrian Park

Issues were raised by many residents regarding the trees planted at the back of Canterbury Avenue/Aysgarth Avenue, Hadrian Park Estate and the debris falling from these into the stream. Also that the trees were too tall.

Residents were informed that this matter had been sent to officers with a view to getting the trees cut back.

A resident asked why is it that they clean the stream but leave all the debris on the side which ends up back in the stream.

Councillor Harrison said he would look into this.

Laburnum Avenue, Wallsend

Residents said there were speeding problems in the area of Laburnum Avenue, Wallsend and had been told that surveys would be undertaken. But to date this has not happened.

Residents also added that they had requested a no entry sign on Laburnum Avenue and Hawthorn Grove, Wallsend.

In response to this query residents were informed that this had been sent to the relevant department to investigate.

A resident raised an issue regarding the allotments near to Laburnum Avenue and West Street, it was noted that the new tenants have lots of heavy materials to remove and required a skip.

A request would be submitted to provide a skip.

OGN

Resident asked who the research partner was for OGN.

Dan Wise advised that an energy academy ENGI had shown an interest.

Money for Middle Engine Lane

A resident raised an issue that money was promised £40/50K approx, which was going to be spent on Middle Engine Lane by Bett Homes but they have gone bust. It was asked whether the money would still go to the area.

Councillor Lesley Spillard was asked to look into this.

Crossing on Addington Drive

A resident enquired about what progress was being made regarding the crossing on Addington Drive he had been told that this was being looked at but felt nothing had happened.

Councillor Spillard advised that works were in progress and advised she would get an update.

In closing the meeting, the Elected Mayor thanked residents, staff and speakers for their attendance. She also thanked Inspector Bent and his colleagues from Northumbria Police for their attendance.

The Elected Mayor stated that she hoped residents found such meetings worthwhile. Over the next three years, due to a reduction in Government funding, the Council would need to make savings of around £53m and difficult decisions would have to be made. However, the Elected Mayor informed residents that the Cabinet and herself would continue to work hard and in partnership with the residents.