



Community Conversation



Ward Update – Battle Hill

26 March 2015

1. Advance Information

Before the event council service areas were asked to provide an update on their activities in the ward:

1.1 Regeneration

Swans site redevelopment – The enterprise zone of Swans aims to provide advanced manufacturing units for export-led businesses linked to the offshore and renewable industry. The Authority is working with its partners (Kier and Capita) to redevelop the site with the aim of bringing jobs and training to the local workforce. Work is well underway on the Quay edge repairs and the road and utility infrastructure across the site, and should be completed by August 2015.

Swans Centre for Innovation – Two floors of the existing offices on the Swans site are being refurbished to provide office space (mainly but not exclusively) for feeder businesses linked with offshore and renewable industries. The centre is being marketed and it will open in September 2015.

Phase 2 of the Wallsend town centre redevelopment – The demolished Hedley Place/York Drive site to the rear of The Forum shopping centre is due to be redeveloped as a supermarket (Aldi) and fast food drive through restaurant (Burger King) with associated car parking. Planning approval was granted for the proposal on the 19th January 2015 and work is expected to start on site in March 2015.

1.2 Housing

276 **affordable homes** will have been built in North Tyneside in 2014/15 and with a further in 2015/16, with the following affordable homes projects expected to be completed in Battle Hill in 2015/16:

- 7 new homes will be built under S106 by Bett Homes at Hadrian Education Centre as part of their development.
- The council are building 3 new bungalows and 6 apartments at Bude Court.
- ISOS are building 15 new houses on their site in Blackhill Avenue.

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While in addition, the **North Tyneside Living PFI Project** has:

- A new build project at Bristol Drive, which is currently on site and progressing well. Now called Mayfield Park, the completed building will provide a total of 49 apartments.
- New build projects at Bisley Court and Broadway Court, which are due to commence during 2015/16.

In terms of **housing improvements** approximately 53 properties will receive new high efficiency condensing boilers during 2015/16, based on the age, condition and efficiency of their existing gas appliance.

Victim and witness support group, successfully launched on 25 February. 16 volunteers will provide an enhanced support service to victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour. The safer estates team will co-ordinate the project.

The creation of a **new neighbourhood delivery approach** bringing together estate caretakers and local environmental services team members to deliver a more co-ordinated approach to service delivery in estates

1.3 Highways

Programmed highways works: planned in Battle Hill ward during February-April 2015.

- Aysgarth and Acombe Avenues - rolling road closure from Addington Drive for Northumbrian Water flood alleviation scheme from 3 November 2014 – June 2015.

Parking permits have being progressed for Battle Hill Drive at the junction with Kings Road North, to address obstructive parking restricting access to a driveway. Legal orders being advertised to extend existing waiting restrictions.

Better co-ordination of utility works: There are over 4,000 utility works on the borough's roads each year and companies currently only need to inform the council of their intention to carry out works.

Now they need to book time on the network by obtaining a permit in advance from the streetworks team. The same rules apply to the council, as well as partners and agents acting on its behalf.

The team can choose to grant the permit, decline the request, or apply a range of conditions ranging from limiting the amount of road space used to the times the work must take place. This will give greater control and co-ordination of highway activities, minimising unnecessary delays.

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North Tyneside Council is the first local authority in the region to operate a permit system for the management of activities on the public highway.

The permit fee ranges from £30 to £148, depending on the scale of works and whether the roads are deemed as strategic routes or traffic sensitive.

Organisations seeking to carry out major works, classed as 11 working days or more, will need to give three months notice. For standard works, lasting four to 10 working days, 10 working days notice is required while minor works, lasting up to three working days, three working days' notice is needed.

Where emergency works are needed, road works can be introduced without permission but notification must be given within two hours.

1.4 Environment

This year's Big Spring Clean Campaign has begun and will run from 9 March to 29 May. As part of our "Estate Clean Up" initiative, the campaign invites businesses, schools and residents to organise their own clean up events across the borough. The aim of the campaign is to encourage communities to take pride in their environment and raise awareness through working in partnership with internal and external agencies.

The council has created a litter blitz team to tackle litter hotspots across the borough, the seasonal team have commenced our litter removal programme and this will continue until the end of March.

Grounds maintenance has nearly completed their winter works programme, this has included edging works, bedding maintenance, shrub pruning and hedge cutting. Biodiversity areas are being increased across the borough, incorporating bee friendly planting and establishing swathed grass areas. This will enable an increase in wild flowers to support the associated wildlife including butterflies and bees. Proposed sites include:

- Black path Battle Hill / Hadrian Park (cut paths)
- Rear Blackhill Avenue, parallel with A19
- A19 / Melrose / Henley Gardens
- A19 / Firtrees Avenue
- Coast Road / rear of Battle Hill Drive shops

At **Wallsend Parks**, Sustrans will be installing a new cycle hub in Richardson Dees Park as part of their GoSmarter Cycle Scheme in April. The 'Bike Shed' will include a large storage space for

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free-to-hire bikes as well as a small meeting / workshop room. The Bike Shed will act as a base for a wide ranging programme of free Sustrans activities throughout the year.

The park's Verandah Café has re-opened on partial hours after a winter closure period. A new volunteer group is taking shape every Wednesday, led by the Park Wardens. So far a group of 6 volunteers have committed to regular attendance and have helped with areas such as hedge planting, tree thinning and path edging. The volunteers are also assisting the Friends of Wallsend

Parks to maintain the Forgotten Orchard project. The park is supporting a range of other volunteer groups/work placements throughout the year. These include weekly visits from 6x Duke of Edinburgh Award students from Atkinson House School, 8 children attending Percy Main Primary's 'Eco-Club' after school group, 2 students from Newcastle Askham Bryan Horticultural College & a work placement from Owen Pugh Ltd.

Battle Hill estate clean up will run on 23 April and 9 June 2015.

1.5 Flooding

As the lead flood authority, North Tyneside Council has a statutory duty to act proactively to reduce the risk of flooding across the borough and investigate flooding problems, wherever they are. This includes ordinary watercourses, surface water runoff and highway drainage.

Current projects that aim to help protect North Tyneside's significant flood risk sites include:

- Aysgarth Avenue – a land survey has been completed, which will contribute to the Rising Sun Country Park feasibility study. The overall purpose of the project is to reduce the risk of homes flooding due to overflow from a stream at the edge of the country park.
- Rising Sun Country Park – a study is underway to identify the works required to improve the capacity of the drainage networks throughout the country park.
- Bewick Park Estate – Detailed design has begun of the Northumbria Water scheme to reduce the risk of homes flooding.

1.6 Local Plan update

Copies of the Local Plan Consultation Draft 2015 summary document have been delivered to every household in North Tyneside. This latest draft proposes a preferred strategy for the growth and development of North Tyneside up to 2032 which includes transport, housing and employment.

The consultation runs until March 27. Comments can be submitted online by visiting the planning section of the council website at my.northtyneside.gov.uk and clicking Local Plan to access the Consultation Portal.

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If you have any queries, please contact Neil Cole, Planning Policy Manager, Tel: 643 6326, email: neil.cole@northtyneside.gov.uk.

1.7 Planning Applications

Recently approved planning applications are:

Application reference number	Location	Application detail	Decision made
14/01808/FUL	Land to the north east of 196 Blackhill Avenue, Wallsend	Erection of 15 houses on an area of existing public open space.	Approved 18/02/2015

1.8 Leisure

As part of Active North Tyneside programme Newcastle United in the Community are working with Battle Hill school children delivering Match Fit programme – an after school club focussed on good nutrition and also football coaching.

Free family splash swimming sessions start at Hadrian Leisure Centre, every Sunday from 5th April 12.00 – 1.00pm. No booking is required just bring the family and your swim stuff.

2 Information stalls

The following information stalls were available at the community conversation:

- Care and Connect
- Flood Ready, Flood Safe
- Age UK
- Warm Zone
- Cameo (mental health peer support group)

3 Issues discussed at the Community Conversation

Residents discussed the following issues with ward councillors: improvements to Battle Hill housing estates, flooding, land ownership, support for children with additional needs, legal highs and the future of Battle Hill Multi-use Centre.

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