



Community Conversation



Ward Update - Howdon

16 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.

1.2 Housing

Work is currently underway to re-roof and undertake external brickwork repairs to 175 homes in Coldstream Gardens, Murray Road and Elizabeth Road is due to be completed in May 2015.

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.

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

An estate walkabout is planned in Henley Gardens and Ridley Avenue on 26 March 2015.

1.3 Highways

Programmed highways works: none are planned for Howdon ward during February-April 2015.

Waiting and permit parking restriction requests: Additional disabled parking has been requested at the junction of Tynemouth Road and Churchill Street – legal orders are currently being drafted.

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.

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 introduced without permission but notification must be given within two hours.

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1.4 Environment

Big Spring Clean: We have launched our Big Spring Clean Campaign (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.

Litter Blitz Team: this new seasonal team has been introduced to tackle litter hotspots across the borough and will be working on the litter removal programme until the end of March.

Estate clean up events: Howdon's next event will be on 25 March

Grounds maintenance have 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.

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 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 and a work placement from Owen Pugh Ltd.

1.5 Local Plan update

Copies of the Local Plan Consultation Draft 2015 summary document have been delivered to every household in North Tyneside.

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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.

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

1.6 Planning Applications

Recently approved planning applications are:

Application reference number	Location	Application detail	Decision made
14/01963/DEMGDO	Police Houses, Churchill Street, Wallsend	Prior notification of demolition of the former police houses at Churchill Street, Wallsend	Approved 19.01.2015

Assent Building Control Ltd, have submitted an initial notice to build a two storey retail building on the site of the former police houses on Churchill Street.

A building regulation application has been received from Home Designs for the conversion of a commercial property into a residential dwelling at Churchill Street.

2 Information stalls

The following information stalls were available at the community conversation:

- Care and Connect
- Flood Ready, Flood Safe
- Age UK
- Cameo (mental health peer support group)
- Groundwork North East
- Howdon Community Centre
- The Business Factory
- Grow and Eat Project
- Adult Learning Alliance Café

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- Churchill Community College
- North Tyneside Homes

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