



Community Conversation



Ward Update – Northumberland Ward 9 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; of these three will be built at Bedford Avenue.

Work has begun to build a residential care home with eight flats for assisted living at Dorset House, Station Road, Wallsend.

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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 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 for Westmoreland Estate on 18 March 2015.

1.3 Highways

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

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

The **play site** at Station Road has passed an Annual Independent Safety Inspection. The inspection is carried out for North Tyneside Council, by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, to comply with European safety standards for play.

The **Rising Sun Country Park** continues to attract many visitors and host events. St.Oswald's Hospice have approached the Council to organise a second Kaleidoscope Colour Run within the Park, following the success of their 2014 event. A new North Tyneside 'Park Run' has been agreed and will be based at the Rising Sun Country Park, the route has been agreed with organisers and funding has been sourced.

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 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, 2x students from Newcastle Askham Bryan Horticultural College & a work placement from Owen Pugh Ltd.

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:

- Wallsend Parks Arboretum
- Station Road, selective large existing mown areas, tree understory
- Rear Wharfedale / Wensleydale (cut paths)
- Hill by Aldi's, rear Airedale / Deepdale (cut paths)
- Rear Regents Park / Holland Park / Home Park (cut paths)
- Rear Home Park / Wiltshire Drive / Coast Road
- Chicken Road Field (cut paths to play area)

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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:

- Chicken Road – The culvert entrance has been cleaned and a new grille installed. Wallsend Burn has been dug out to increase capacity.
- Wallsend Burn – a scoping study is underway to understand the catchment and capacity of the drainage network, particularly in the Chicken Road area.

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. As well as information about the key proposals, the document includes details of six drop-in events for the public, including **Wednesday 11 March 2015** at Wallsend Customer First Centre, The Forum, Wallsend, NE28 8JR from 2pm to 4.30pm and 6pm to 8pm.

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.

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1.7 Planning Applications

Recently approved planning applications are:

Application reference number	Location	Application detail	Decision made
14/01795/FUL	Ground Floor, Anderson House, 29 Coast Road	Stationing of parcel locker (retrospective)	Approved 12.01.2015
14/01672/FULH	67 Mullen Road	Two storey side and rear extension and front porch extension	Approved 07.01.2015
14/01848/FULH	10 O'Hanlon Crescent	Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey and two storey rear extension	Approved 21.01.2015
14/01885/FULH	46 Springfield Gardens	Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension	Approved 27.01.2015

2. Information stalls

The following information stalls were available at the community conversation:

- Care and Connect
- Flood Ready, Flood Safe
- Age UK
- Groundwork North East
- Carers Centre

3. Issues discussed at the Community Conversation

Ward councillors discussed the following concerns with residents: rights of way, flooding, new housing developments and regeneration of Wallsend town centre.

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