

## **Chirton, Collingwood and Riverside Elected Mayor Listens Event**

### **Note**

**15 September 2015**

**Present:** Norma Redfearn, Elected Mayor  
Councillors Eddie Darke, Ray Glindon, John Harrison, Bruce Pickard,  
Lesley Spillard, John Stirling, Frank Lott, Wendy Lott and Martin Rankin

**Also in attendance:**

Andy Flynn, Integrated Transport Manager  
Nick Bryan, Senior Transport Planner, Capita  
Malcolm Frazer, Highways Team, Capita  
Dan Wise, Regeneration Team  
Anthony Howe, Training Development Team  
Superintendent Mick Paterson, Northumbria Police  
Inspector Mark Storey, Northumbria Police

**Apologies:** Councillors Carole Burdis, Ian Grayson and Alison Waggott-Fairley

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 going on in their area and also to explain why certain things could not be done.

### **Area Roads Update**

Andy Flynn, Integrated Transport Manager, and Nick Bryan, Senior Transport Planner, Capita, gave a presentation on the Coast Road scheme. The objectives of the scheme were to 1) remove congestion on the key junctions of Billy Mill and Norham Road, to enable future growth; 2) increase the longevity and capacity of the Norham Road bridge; 3) improve road safety on the A1058 Coast Road corridor; and 4) support the proposed "Cycles Cities" Coast Road cycle route.

The scheme proposals were outlined. An overview was also given on the A19 Silverlink scheme.

In response to a question about the state of a subway in the Billy Mill area, Councillor John Stirling pointed out that this matter was being looked at and various options (e.g. new lighting etc.) being considered. He would follow up this matter with officers.

### **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:

- i) Inspecting the condition of Heaton Terrace road surface;
- ii) Inspecting an area of Heaton Terrace due to surface water (a spring) occurring after rainfall;
- iii) Inspecting the condition of the road surface at Waterville Road from Coach Lane to the metro line;
- iv) Clearing of the gullies in the Hudson Street/Brewer House Bank area.

In response to a query from a resident regarding the condition of the road surface at The Quadrant, it was agreed that officers would arrange to meet with the resident the following day to inspect the road.

### **Regeneration Update**

Dan Wise, Regeneration Team, gave a presentation on the regeneration of Northumberland Square and Fish Quay. He outlined the proposals for Northumberland Square and the Fish Quay replacement lighting scheme at Western Quay.

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

- i) Clarification of the position relating to a planning application for housing/flats at the Port of Tyne building;
- ii) The condition of the surface of the new road on the Fish Quay

In relation to questions that were raised by residents regarding the fishermen's request for a memorial and park at the Crescent, the Elected Mayor pointed out that the Council were liaising with the fishermen to try to obtain Heritage Lottery funding and the site was still to be determined.

### **Dementia Friends**

Anthony Howe, Training Development Team, gave a presentation on how to become a Dementia Friend in the community. He 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.

### **Open Question Time**

The floor was opened up to questions from residents. The following questions were asked:

### **1) Bus Stop near Billy Mill Roundabout**

In view of the proposals for the Billy Mill roundabout, will the bus stop, which is presently about 100 yards from the junction, be moved back?

The Elected Mayor replied as follows:

Yes it will.

### **2) Councillors/Police Surgeries at Balkwell Community Centre**

There used to be a councillors/police surgery at the Community Centre on the first Saturday of each month but they were cancelled at short notice. Why were they cancelled?

Councillor John Stirling replied as follows:

In the past, not many people were attending and the Ward Councillors therefore agreed to have one surgery in the middle of North Shields on a Saturday morning. If there is a need anywhere in Chirton ward we would be happy to hold surgeries but there has to be a need. I will consult with my ward colleague about why the cancellation was at short notice.

### **3) Pavements**

A lot of good work is taking place on highway resurfacing etc. but pavements are not part of that regime. Vehicles often now park on pavements but there isn't a regime for pavement repairs

Councillor John Harrison replied as follows:

Footpath maintenance is a high priority for the Elected Mayor. We have developed a maintenance programme through the Highways Asset Plan which has concentrated mainly on roads but I can give an assurance that we are starting to concentrate on pavement improvements.

### **4) Empty Retail Units**

Having walked around commercial sites in North Shields, there are around 70 empty retail units a lot of them are over 100 years old. Does the Council have any long term plans for these units?

The Elected Mayor replied as follows:

Very shortly officers will be meeting with developers, retailers, the Beacon Centre, and businesses about the development of this area. This is next on the agenda.

Councillor Frank Lott also responded as follows:

Conversations are also ongoing with New River.

### **5) Parking on Pavements**

People often park on the pavement in Heaton Terrace. If cars are on the pavement I walk on the road which can be dangerous. Parking on pavements used to be against the law but it is commonplace now.

Superintendent Mick Paterson replied as follows:

We now live in a different era where most families have two cars. I have every sympathy with you, there are similar problems where I live. The law has changed in relation to parking on pavements and we now do not have traffic wardens. We could do some targeted intervention and enforcement in the short term in relation to your specific issue.

Councillor John Harrison also replied as follows:

I do not believe cars should be parked on pavements but there are over 200,000 cars which all can not just be positioned on roads. The reality is, where a vehicle causes an obstruction (e.g. if you have to walk on the road), we can do something about this. We could send letters out educating people. Legislation allows us to do something. The problem, of course, is doing something in one area may only move the problem to another area. The Blind Society is lobbying on this and we are also looking at this in relation to older people. This is quite complicated but we are looking at this.

### **6) Adverts about Parking on Pavements**

Can you look at advertising this issue with, say, a cartoon advert on T.V. reminding people on how to behave? These type of adverts have worked well in the past (e.g. adverts re nuisance of slamming car doors, driving too far to the left or right etc.)

Councillor Frank Lott replied as follows:

It's all about how we communicate with people.

### **7) Advertising Boards on Pavements**

My concern is advertising boards on pavements/outside shops. They can cause obstructions. There are two on the pavement outside Ocean Fish restaurant which cause an obstruction.

Councillor Frank Lott replied as follows:

Some are positioned within the curtilage of the shop.

Superintendent Mick Paterson also replied as follows:

We would like to look at longer term solutions around education and are linking with other agencies about this.

### **8) Traffic in Spring Gardens**

Spring Gardens is often like a motorway with taxis and police cars often spinning round. There is an accident waiting to happen. A car recently ran over a woman and the driver did not know she was under the car.

Superintendent Mick Paterson replied as follows:

We will look at this.

### **9) School Truancy**

I see so many children of school age in the town centre who are obviously not at school.

The Elected Mayor replied as follows:

Schools have their own records. The register is read. If a child is not in this is reported to the school office. If the school does not have a letter from the parents then they are contacted/visited. If there is a record of truancy the parents could be taken to court and fined.

Councillor Lesley Spillard also replied as follows:

One of the schools in my Ward has a weekly newsletter that gives details of attendance. There may be a good reason though for not being at school. For example, a child may not attend school for two days after sickness/diarrhoea.

### **10) Cramlington Emergency Hospital**

Has anyone had any comments or complaints about the new hospital in Cramlington? A relative under the care of Rake Lane hospital was taken to Rake Lane one night in an emergency. On arrival she was told they had to go to Cramlington. She was seen on arrival at Cramlington but, after that, she waited for four hours yet no one attended to her. Her son took her home without anyone seeing her. She then went to palliative care in Rake Lane. There was a lack of communication between Rake Lane and Cramlington.

Councillor Lesley Spillard replied as follows:

If anyone is seen as needing emergency treatment they are referred to Cramlington as the emergency care hospital. Rake Lane is now seen as a walk in centre for minor injuries. The concern is that your relative was not seen when she got there. Records are shared now. This is certainly worth raising and I will ask for feedback.

A resident who was a Governor of Northumbria Healthcare Trust, also responded as follows:

The Ambulance Service is a separate Trust. It decides where you go. If an injury/illness is life threatening you are referred to Cramlington.

### **11)Cycling on Pavements**

I am concerned about cycling on pavements in the Fish Quay area along the promenade. These are legal cycle ways but the interaction between cyclists and pedestrians needs to be considered. I am amazed there has not been more problems along these routes.

Councillor John Harrison replied as follows:

We are looking at new maps of cycle routes throughout North Tyneside. A Sub Committee is looking at the whole of the cycle network in North Tyneside and a report is expected soon. We have to look at the interaction between cyclists and pedestrians and the overall infrastructure.

### **12)Tynemouth Open Air Pool**

Are there any plans to reinvigorate the open air pool at Tynemouth?

The Elected Mayor replied as follows:

There are a group of people hoping to raise funds through the Heritage Lottery Fund. We are liaising with them regarding plans and designs.

Dan Wise also responded as follows:

The feasibility study regarding the Fish Quay is looking at this.

The Elected Mayor thanked residents, staff and speakers for their attendance. She thanked Superintendent Mick Paterson and Inspector Mark Storey from Northumbria Police for their attendance.