

Killingworth Community Conversation
19th March 2014
White Swan Centre, Killingworth

Present:

Cllr Carole Burdis (Chair), Cllr Gary Bell, Cllr Linda Darke, Cllr Alison Waggott-Fairley, Julie Denton (NTC), Angela Gent (NTC), Chris Bishop (NTC), Felicity Shoemsmith (NTC), Inspector John Smith (Northumbria Police), PC Richie Parker (Northumbria Police), Richard Robinson (Environment Agency) and 6 Residents.

1. Welcome

Cllr Carole Burdis opened the meeting, introducing herself as the Cabinet Lead for Community Engagement.

2. The Blucher Project

Chris Bishop gave an update on this project. Since the last community conversation a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund has been successful, securing £54,800. Chris set out a range of ways that this funding will help to support the bringing back to Killingworth of the Blucher sculpture and work with schools and the wider community on sharing the history of George Stephenson and helping to celebrate the 200 anniversary, which takes place in July 2014.

Joe Wilkes thanked Chris and his team on behalf of the Local History Society for their help with securing the funding that has made this project possible.

3. Northumbria Police Update

Inspector John Smith gave an update on the work of the North West Neighbourhood Policing Team. Over the past year overall crime in this area has dropped by a further 1%. North Tyneside continues to be the safest MBC in England. Whilst violent crime has seen an increase of 11% over the past year, this has been at a time when the Police have been running a campaign on domestic abuse encouraging people to report incidents. Damage to motor cars also up (with 16 more crimes over the past year) this includes deliberate scratching of cars. However anti-social behaviour is down, and this reflects a wide range of activities that include working with the Council to address issues quickly.

A resident asked about the any legal action taken to reduce anti-social behaviour, in this area the focus is usually on ASB injunctions which are taken out by the Council and focus on stopping someone from going to particular places. These have been very affective.

The Neighbourhood Police team will be moving into the White Swan building over the next few weeks and once the move had been completed they would be closing the Forest Hall station. A resident asked whether there would be any reduction in front line policing and assurances were given that there will be no reductions.

4. Ward Update – Flooding

Richard Robinson from the Environment Agency (EA) gave an update on Otterburn Close and explained that the EA will be putting in a funding bid aimed at securing Central Government funding for the work to the culvert. This funding bid would not be confirmed until at least the autumn. The residents have been given Richards direct email if they have any further questions on the work of the EA on this scheme. Additional information on planned work is in the information pack distributed at the meeting.

5. Have Your Say & Any Other Business

A suggestion was received about doing some additional planting of bulbs in the Killingworth area. This could include the local community. Julie agreed to add this to the Killingworth Partnership meeting for discussion.

Date and time of future meetings

Mayor's Listening Events

Benton - Thursday 27th March 6 – 8pm, St Andrew's Church, Benton

Killingworth - Tuesday 24th June 6 – 8pm, White Swan Centre, Killingworth