

Weetslade Community Conversation 5th March 2014

Notes of the Meeting

People Present:

Cllr Alex Cowie (Chair), Cllr Muriel Green, Cllr Anthony McMullen, Steve Bishop (Highways Agency), Andrew Stevenson (C2HM), Anna Gay (Northumbria NHS Healthcare Trust), David Evans (Northumbria NHS Healthcare Trust), Inspector Martin Brooks (Northumbria Police), Felicity Shoesmith (NTC) and 21 residents.

Welcome:

Cllr Cowie opened the meeting welcoming everyone present.

Police:

Acting Inspector Martin Brooks gave an update on crime in the North West Area. Whilst over all crime was slightly up over the year compared to last year it has fallen in terms of burglary to people's homes, car crime and anti-social behaviour. The Police have a number of specific campaigns in the North West Area at present including "Walking on egg shells"; raising awareness of Domestic Violence, "Valuable in cars" – reminding people to remove items and lock their cars, and "Valuables in gardens" including items left outside and in sheds.

Forest Hall Police Station will be moving into the White Swan at Killingworth. This will support greater partnership working and is due to take place around 7th April.

A question was asked about the impact of budget cuts on the Neighbourhood Police Teams and assurance given that there would be no reduction in the number of front line Police in North Tyneside.

In a non emergency the Police should be contacted by phone on 101. The Neighbourhood Officer (Mick Wilson) also often attends the members surgery on a Thursday morning.

An issue on vandalism to bus shelters was raised and will be investigated.

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Dr David Evans gave a presentation about the new Emergency Care Hospital at Cramlington. Work has started and is due to be completed in March 2015, with the hospital due to open in June 2015. Information is attached.

People needing the hospital will either be referred directly by their GP or arrive through the blue light services, however there is also plenty of car parking. It is a short stay emergency care unit with people going to the best hospital for the care they need.

Holiday Inn Roundabout

Steve Bishop from the Highways agency and Andrew Stevenson from C2HM gave a short presentation.

Funding for the scheme has come from central government as part of a programme to reduce pincer point issues, this scheme will cost £3.7 million and is due to take place between May and November 2014. There will be some road closures but this will be kept to a minimum and will usually take place at non peak times. Questions were asked about the Blagdon slip road which will not be included in the new roundabout traffic lights, this will be relooked at however the reason for this was explained. The new scheme will also include pedestrian crossings.

The scheme is planned between Spring 2016 and Spring 2018.

Questions were asked about why there was no audible warning on the pedestrian crossing at Sandy Lane, the reason for this is given which links to safety concerns.

Section 106 funding

Cllr Green talked through a briefing (attached). This is £511,858 of funding for Wideopen linked to the Bellways development. Cllr Green asked anyone with suggestions on how some of the allocated funds could be spent to contact the engagement team on engagement@northtyneside.gov.uk and asked people to share this with their neighbours and friends in this area. Any decision on the community funding will involve the community, people at this meeting will be contacted to be part of this.

Other local issues

1. Work to address the rain run off from Lockey Park, information received indicated that this will not happen until 2015. Cllr Green to check this.
2. The hedges around the new development were discussed and assurances have been given about these.
3. Concern was expressed about the state of the roads around the new development with mud making them unsafe. Photos of the roads were shared with the Police and Cllr Green who will both investigate.
4. The Harris Fence between phase 4 and 3 was identified as unsafe in heavy wind. Cllr Green to report this.
5. Cllr Green explained the changes to the Polling Stations in this area.
6. The 20mph road signs on Canterbury Way and Worcester Way need renewing. – Cllr Green to report.
7. There will be some repainting inside the Chapel in the Cemetery.
8. We had a discussion about the traffic signals leading to Sandy Lane and whether these could be peak time only – The Traffic Engineers to be invited to the next meeting to discuss.
9. The returning of bins once they have been emptied was discussed and Cllr Green will share concerns with the Head of Service. Residents were asked to

allow two weeks and if the situation had not improved to take photos and share these with Cllr Green.

10. A question was raised about the school house, but no updates were available.
11. A number of concerns about the footpaths around Wideopen were raised. Whilst there has been some additional funding added to this budget work will in future focus replacing damaged paving. Residents were asked to identify any specific paving stones that need replacing and let their ward councillors know.
12. Questions were asked about the new home for older people – and were encouraged to go to the open events – the next one is on the 31st March. The scheme is due for completion to be handed over to Riverside on 28.3.14, when they will look to start moving people in from 28.4.14, there will be the opportunity for local people and professionals to visit the site for a look around and meet the staff during this four week period. The Chief Executive of Riverside will be officially opening the home and the date of this is to be confirmed.
13. A suggestion was made to increase the number of signs about dog waste on the Bridle path.