

Community Conversation – Valley Ward
18th February 2014
Shiremoor Centre, 7p.m.

People Present: Cllr Carole Burdis (Chair), Cllr Brian Burdis, Cllr Tommy Mulvenna, Cait Foley (NTC), Felicity Shoosmith (NTC), Rachael Coyne (NTC), Kevin Ridpath (Capita) Kevin Rogerson (Northumbria Police), Gary Watson (Northumbria Police)

Cllr Burdis opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and explaining about community conversations, she asked all of the councillors and officers to introduce themselves.

Backworth Park Primary School

Rachael Coyne, Manager School Organisation and Investment gave a short presentation about the proposed relocation and enlarging of Backworth Park Primary School. Copies of this presentation were also circulated in information pack available to everyone at the meeting.

This meeting is part of the formal consultation process and everyone present was encouraged to complete the consultation reply form. Other consultation is taking place and comments will be included in a Cabinet report which will go to the April 2014 cabinet meeting. If Cabinet agree a further formal 6 weeks consultation will take place. If approved it is anticipated that the new school will open in September 2017.

Questions / responses:

- Concern on any flooding risk was raised. A flood risk assessment has to be completed as part of any development proposal. This assessment has not raised any concerns.
- We discussed the schools admission process.
- We received a question on ensuring that community facilities were included within any plans and the issues having multiuser space causes. Suggestions including outdoor play friendly space.

Update from Northumbria Police.

The update was given by Kevin Rogerson. Valley is part of the Whitley Bay Area Team. In this area over the past 12 months overall crime has increased by 12%, one of the main reasons for this an increase in shop lifting. Burglary has reduced, as has crime from cars. The detection rate is 49%. One of the main issues continues to be people not locking their house or car and everyone was reminded to do this. Kevin asked anyone with any concerns that the Police could help with to contact them on telephone number 101. He also talked about the electronic neighbourhood watch that he encouraged people to sign up to.

Flooding

Kevin Ridpath (Capita) gave a short presentation about the work that has been taking place in Valley Ward to reduce the risk of flooding to people's homes. Over one million will be spent on a scheme to reduce the risk of flooding in Shiremoor and a wide range of investigation has taken place to ensure that the correct solution is implemented. Once the detail of the work is completed we will be arranging a market

place event when people can come to see the plans and talk to the engineers about what will be happening in their street.

Questions / Responses:

- A question was asked about gully cleaning. These are currently cleaned at least every 18 months; if anyone identifies a problem they should contact 0191 643 8515 which is our Highways Maintenance Team who deal with gully cleansing.
- In addition further checks will be carried out following any development to ensure that the developer has cleaned all drains before they are handed over to the council to look after.
- Concern was raised about road safety, particularly around Backworth Park Primary. The highway team will be asked that this is looked at; this might include doing a road speed survey. The Street Crossing Officer should be back in place within the next month.
- Speeding along Northumberland Park / Grey Horse (a 20mph) was also raised and will be reported.
- A suggestion was received about a crossing around Brookfield and Cloverfields, across the wagon way. Cllr Mulvenna will follow this up.
- Concern was also raised about the additional traffic across Valley Ward, particularly vans using Lesbury Ave.
- The development site by Moorside, the developers are leaving a lot of mud on the highway, the councillors will take this up.
- A question was asked on whether Nexus planned any improvements to the Shiremoor Metro station. We agreed we will find out and feedback.
- The Shiremoor Adventure Play Ground explained about the service they offer, they need more people to volunteer to ensure they are able to continue to offer a service.
- Shiremoor Credit Union is open every morning, again run by volunteers. Cllr Carole Burdis encouraged people to save with the Credit Union.

Cllr Burdis closed the meeting and said that the next meeting would be in West Allotment