

Community Conversation

Northumberland Ward

Tuesday 26th November 2013, Jubilee School, Mullen Road, Wallsend

Note of Issues Raised

People present: Cllr David Ord (Chair), Cllr Marion Huscroft, Cllr Nigel Huscroft, Jackie Laughton (NTC), Felicity Shoosmith (NTC), Mark Newlands (NTC), Richard Martin (Capita), Laura Hewitt (Capita), Martin Craddock (Capita), Linzie Pentleton (Northumbrian Water) and 16 residents.

Flooding Update

In response to the update from Capita on flooding the following issues were raised.

Q: What action is being taken to deal with the problems caused by the underground stream near to the school – Mullen Road and Exeter Road? Concerns were raised in relation to the way in which the housing estate has been constructed with a curved design (residents felt that this was due to the old mine workings underneath) and houses on a bank. Concerns were raised that any additional building on Exeter Road or the Parkside site would exacerbate the situation even further – residents asked whether planning permission would be granted to allow further development on this site. Residents also outlined that they had wanted to do something for the community on the Parkside site.

A: Richard Martin confirmed that he would do a site visit to the houses affected and he took the details of the residents involved so that this could be arranged. Officers also confirmed that there would be a notice in the press the following day regarding proposed land disposal on the Parkside site and that residents can submit any objections to that. Council officers also explained how the consideration of flooding risk and surface water drainage will next year be a requirement of any planning application and they also explained that flood risk is managed extremely closely.

Q: What about the contaminated land? A culvert is needed at Mullen Road under the location of the nursery – to follow the flow of the natural underground stream?

A: Capita confirmed that a survey will be undertaken in the next financial year to look at drainage solutions.

Parking

Q: Strong concerns were raised regarding a long standing complaint re. parking in Mullen Road, Mason Gardens and Mcilvenna Gardens – caused by people dropping children off at the nearby school and parking on the pavements, over crossings and at junctions making the area very unsafe as impossible for residents to take their cars in or out at school drop-off or pick up times.

Residents complained that they had requested the area to become a designated play street but this was rejected in the past. They also explained that they would be happy to consider a permit scheme for residents although accepted that not all residents would necessarily be happy with this. Residents have been in touch with the school but feel that no action has been taken. It was explained that this has been raised in the past with Cllr Marian Huscroft but residents were not satisfied that any action had been taken to address their concerns. One resident supplied copies of previous correspondence and asked that her questions in the letters were responded to including providing details of any previous surveys which the Council had undertaken.

Residents also explained that in Mullen Gardens, double yellow lines would improve the situation or car parking permits.

A: Richard Martin explained that where Council approved crossings are being blocked then it would be looked into further. He also explained that the mobile enforcement team could be used to target the problem. He explained that he would take the matter back to the parking team to address in full.

Playsite

Q: Residents gave positive feedback on the play park which has been installed but also said that more along these lines could be done with the Parkside site to address the lack of community facilities in the area.

Local Plan

Capita outlined the Local Plan proposals which were out for consultation with all residents. Residents raised the following points

- rejection of any plans to build housing on the Parkside site due to the risk of flooding plus the lack of any community facilities
- concerns about any development on the wildlife corridor
- concerns that planning officers might not know the local area
- concerns as to what was happening regarding contaminated land on the Mullen road site

In response Council officers explained how the risk of flooding will continue to be a key consideration. They also explained that development can happen in a wildlife corridor, as these are corridors that link areas of open space and biodiversity value, but are not in themselves designations that protect sites from development i.e. it is not an embargo to development but the impact on wildlife and potential to provide new planting the supports wildlife will be considered as part of the proposal in the same way as other impacts are considered with any development eg. traffic, flooding etc. Officers also explained that planning officers work on a case basis and will always visit the sites involved.

Foliage

Q: Concerns were raised by residents in relation to the volume of fallen leaves around the school area as well as the height of the trees at the back of Mcilvenna Gardens.

A: Council officers confirmed that the appropriate department would be notified to address the trees issues including in relation to the school grounds.