



# Walker Eye

The Newsletter for the residents of Walker Riverside

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## We're here

Welcome to the first Walker Riverside newsletter which has been produced by the new Information and Engagement Team.

We aim to produce this newsletter on a regular basis — about four times a year. The aim of the newsletter is to keep all residents and local businesses of Walker up to date with what is happening with the regeneration programme and other local information about the area.

We hope that you will find the newsletter of interest and useful and we would welcome your comments on any aspect of this newsletter and the work we do.

So, who are the Walker Riverside Team? What are we here to do? Where are we based? And how can you get involved?

The team is made up of three staff at present, Andy Eastwood (Community Engagement Manager), Ian Wilson (Community Engagement Officer) and Julie Shield (Communications Officer). We will also be recruiting one other Engagement Officer to work in the team.

The main aims of the team are to engage with as many residents and local businesses in the Walker Riverside regeneration area and provide up to date information on what is happening.

The team is employed and managed by The Places for People Group and funded by The Housing Corporation and Bridging NewcastleGateshead.

We are located at the Walker Riverside Information Centre, 9a Church Street which is next to the two new showhomes.

Members of the public are very welcome to call in to the Information Centre to speak to the team about any issues they may have and have a look around the showhomes. Please see the back of the newsletter for opening times and contact details.



Walker Riverside

## Visit the showhomes



As you may have seen, two brand new showhomes have been built on the edge of the Cambrian Estate, on the corner of Walker Road and Church Street.

A two storey three bedroom house and a three storey four bedroom house have been built and furnished to give both existing and new residents an opportunity to see what their new home could look like.

The showhomes reflect the quality of the properties that will be built in Walker. Each property will meet Eco Homes standards which means that they will be built using environmentally friendly materials and will be energy efficient — making them warmer and cheaper to heat.

All properties will also be designed to

Lifetime Homes standards, so that should an occupier's needs change over time, due to disability for example, the home can be easily adapted to accommodate these needs.

The whole area will also be 'Secure by Design' — meaning that homes will be designed to make burglary more difficult.

Two local school children contributed to the interior design of the showhomes by creating a 'Dream Bedroom' through a competition which was run with the primary schools in Walker. The winners were Katya Quimis and Michael Donaghey. Michael was inspired by the seaside and has gone for a nautical theme, whilst Katya loves the colour pink and has designed the ultimate Barbie haven.

Greg Stone, Chair of Walker Riverside Project Board and Councillor for Regeneration

# Eye Spy



Greg Stone and Nick Brown MP at the showhomes

**Name** Greg Stone

**Job title** Chair of Walker Riverside Project Board and Councillor for Regeneration

**Age** 30

**Live** Elswick

**How long have you been in your present position?**

I've been a councillor for seven years, but I've only been an Executive member (with responsibility for regeneration) since June 2004.

**Briefly, what does the Project Board do?**

The Board oversees the strategy and implementation of a massive programme of improvements for the Walker area. We take decisions about funding, planning, and project management, and we oversee the development of proposals for particular sites within the area.

As Chair, I have to referee between the different partners on the Board, including councillors, the community, local businesses, house builders and planners!

**Why do you think regeneration is important?**

Regeneration is the most important responsibility the city council has, and covers so many different themes such as housing, education, health, the environment, community safety, and transport.

It's never straightforward as there are difficult decisions to take and what might work in one place might not be right for another. It can take a frustratingly long time to make things happen, but the long term benefit can be enormous. At the end of the day, it's all about improving quality of life for local people.

**Why is community involvement so vital for the future of Walker?**

In my view, regeneration will only succeed through the actions of local people. It will never work if agencies try and impose regeneration from above, without listening to or better still involving local residents.

Local people know best what their local area needs, and by getting involved local residents can have really meaningful input into how Walker is regenerated.

**How would you like Walker to look in five years time?**

Put simply, we want to create a place where people want to move to rather than move away from. To do that, we need attractive new family housing, a 21st century school, plenty of parks and green spaces, shops, community facilities, and convenient transport links to the city. We need to do all this whilst still making sure that Walker's history and community spirit are at the heart of our proposals.

**Hobbies and interests**

Football and cricket mainly (I'm hoping for an Ashes win this summer!), but I've always been into books — I'll read anything!

**Favourite band?**

I like house music so I tend to prefer DJs!

**Favourite TV programme?**

The Smoking Room

**Best book ever read?**

On The Road by Jack Kerouac

**If you won the lottery, what would you spend the money on?**

I'd hire a personal fitness trainer because I never seem to have the time to go to the gym!

## What will happen in 2005?

● Building work has started on the cleared land of the Cambrian Estate. The first phase is due to be completed by June 2006 and this will mean 29 homes will have been built and will be ready for existing Cambrian residents to move into.

● The Oval and Bakewell Terrace have been identified as an area of homes which can receive environmental and external improvements. This work is being funded by Bridging NewcastleGateshead. This work should be almost complete by the end of 2005.

● The Information and Engagement Team will work alongside Newcastle City Council's Development Team and take the lead on looking after most of the residents groups and the Walker and Riverside Community Network.

● Residents will be able to have their final say on what they want to happen to Walker. From 1 September to 12 October, residents will be asked to comment on options that they prefer for Walker.

## Look out for who is next for Eye Spy!

# The final countdown — we need your view

Community involvement is very important to the future of Walker and local residents have been actively involved over the years in getting across their view of how they want Walker to be.

The draft masterplan for Walker was developed with the involvement of the community. All of the comments and ideas about the masterplan have now come together and some options have been drawn up on how to take these forward. We need you to tell us which options you would prefer to happen.

From 1 September 2005 until 12 October, a number of events will be held in different locations in Walker. We would urge you to come along and look at the different options for your area and tell us what you think.

Ten minutes of your time now will help influence what decisions are made in the next 15 years — and help to shape the future of Walker Riverside.

Feedback and further involvement by local residents will help produce an Area Action Plan to improve Walker over the next 15 years and for generations to come.

A range of partners will work with residents

and local businesses to deliver the programme of regeneration including Places for People — the lead regeneration agency, Newcastle City Council and Bridging NewcastleGateshead, one of the Government's Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders.

Participation events in Walker:

- **Saturday 3 September** 10.00am — 4.00pm — Lightfoot Centre, Wharrier Street
- **Tuesday 6 September** — 10.00am — 4.00pm — F.I.N Office, Church Walk Shopping Centre
- **Tuesday 13 September** 3.00pm — 8.00pm — West Walker Primary School, Church Street
- **Saturday 17 September** 10.00am — 4.00pm — Walker Library
- **Tuesday 20 September** 3.00pm — 8.00pm — Jubilee Club, Proctor Street
- **Tuesday 27 September** 3.00pm — 8.00pm — Tyneview Primary School, Winslow Place
- **Saturday 1 October** 10.00am — 4.00pm — St Anthony's CE Primary School, Pottery Bank
- **Tuesday 4 October** 3.00pm — 8.00pm — Welbeck Primary School, Flodden Street
- **Tuesday 11 October** 3.00pm — 8.00pm — Monkchester Community Centre, Monkchester Road.

## Design a garden

Six people from the Cambrian and Annville Estates took part in a course recently to design a garden. The gardens were designed on a computer and the participants learned new IT skills over a ten week period to do this. The course was held in the Annville Community Centre.

The people who took part were Joan Prickett, Brian Cheetham, Betty Cheetham, Margaret Nelson, Fred Bell and Fred Burn. They were presented with a certificate and present by Councillor Wood at the Walker Riverside Information Centre open day held on 2 July.



From left to right, Fred Burn, Fred Bell, Oorvashi Vora (Places for People), Councillor Wood, Betty Cheetham, Anne Mulroy (Places for People), Brian Cheetham

## Open Day competition winner!

The Information Centre held an open day on 2 July and a competition was held to win £30 of Newcastle United gift shop vouchers.

Congratulations to Daniel Hicks who answered the question — What type of cranes are the two yellow cranes on Walker Riverside known as?

There were two possible answers: They are officially known as Hammerhead Cranes but they are also known locally as Hercules and Titan.

Daniel's name was pulled out of the hat with the correct answer. There were 31 entries all together — thank you to everyone who entered.

## Football sponsors

The Walker Riverside Partnership are sponsoring a newly formed under 12s football team called Annville Hammers United. Secretary Evelyn Cowen approached the partnership and asked if we would like to sponsor the team, which is coached by Andrew McGuinness. We are delighted to do this and in the next issue of Walker Eye we'll feature the team in their new strip.

## Thanks to City Council's Community Development Team

As the Walker Riverside Team establish their contacts with the local community groups we would like to express our special thanks to the current Community Development Team at Newcastle City Council. They will still be involved with the community and their work to date has been very much appreciated.

Thanks to Dawn Brown, Mara Thompson, Jackie Bartlett, Fiona Swindell, Jan Buglass and a special thank you to John McLauchlin (Community Development Manager) for his work with the Walker Riverside Network.

# Walker & Riverside Community Network

The Walker & Riverside Community Network is an umbrella group of residents and tenants associations within the Walker Riverside area. They have the responsibility of representing their respective community groups on the wider aspects of the Walker Riverside Regeneration project. The Network also works closely with the Walker & Monkchester Partnership.

The Network was formed in 2001 and it has had its difficulties since then, in particular, the frustration with the current pace of the regeneration programme. However, as the draft masterplan for Walker Riverside turns into the Area Action Plan the Network will be extensively involved in this process.

The Community Network has representatives from a number of resident and tenant groups and the Thomas Gaughan Centre. The Network would like to see further representation from other groups and if you would like further information please call the Walker Riverside Information Centre on 0191 263 4826.

The Network would like to thank all its members, both past and present, in their continued commitment to providing a local peoples' perspective both to their own residents and to the regeneration project board.

A special thanks and appreciation must go to Susan Shaftoe who recently retired from the Network and a big welcome to Eileen Knox who is now Chairperson.

An appreciation must also go to Newcastle City Council's Community

Development Team under the leadership of John McLauchlin (Community Development Manager) and in particular to Jan Buglass (Neighbourhood Assistant) who has not only worked with the Network but also given her support and advice to a number of tenants and residents associations.

Support for the majority of the tenants and residents groups within Walker will transfer to the new Walker Riverside Engagement Team who will be taking on the responsibilities previously held by Newcastle City Council's Community Development Team.

Andy Eastwood (Community Engagement Manager at the Walker Riverside Engagement Team) will now be the main support officer for the Walker Riverside Community Network and it is hoped that he will continue to assist the Network to carry on its excellent work as Walker Riverside regeneration's 'people's voice'. The Network would like to hear from any community group or individual residents about how the Network can support or represent their views through the regeneration programme.

For further information regarding the Walker & Riverside Community Network please contact the Walker Riverside Information Centre on 0191 263 4826 and we will be glad to help.



## Come and see us

The team are now permanently based at the Walker Riverside Information Centre, 9a Church Street, Walker. (Next to the two showhomes).

We would encourage anyone who would like to discuss issues about the regeneration of the area or view the showhomes to come and see us.

- The Information Centre is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm.
- The showhomes are open Tuesday to Friday 10am to 3pm and Saturday 10am to 1pm.

If you cannot make any of these times we can arrange an alternative by appointment. Please ring 0191 263 4826 (answerphone).

If you would like to email us:  
Andrew.eastwood@pfp-group.co.uk  
Ian.wilson@pfp-group.co.uk  
Julie.shield@pfp-group.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you.



**Walker Riverside Team. From left to right, Julie Shield (Communications Officer), Andy Eastwood (Community Engagement Manager), Lynne Stobbs (P.A.), Ian Wilson (Community Engagement Officer), Anne Mulroy (Project Director)**