



**HEART OF WALKER  
NEIGHBOURHOOD FOCUS GROUP  
TWO SESSIONS: 1 – 3 p.m. and 6 – 8 p.m.  
ON THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2008  
UPDATE**

**Officers in Attendance:**

Jackie Jones, Walker Riverside Engagement Team  
Jane Ormrod, Walker Riverside Engagement Team  
Clare Wood, Walker Riverside Regeneration Team  
Mark Jackson, Walker Riverside Regeneration Team  
Duncan Holness, Walker Riverside Regeneration Team  
Tim Jones, Walker Riverside Regeneration Team  
Helen Balmbra, Education Dept, NCC  
Lynda Williams, East End Community Development Alliance  
Carol Hunter, East End Community Development Alliance  
Robin Harvey, Education Dept, NCC  
Ann Todd-Mills, Your Homes Newcastle

**Residents in Attendance:**

T Hartland, D Madzimore, S Rogerson, M Shilton, B Daniels, S Walker, C Leith, R King, E Burns, H Regan, V Baines, S Norris, M Burdis, Rev. F Sykes, W J Smith, A Johnson, A Bartlett, M Bishop, J Mahon and Mrs Scott

**Heart of Walker (HoW) Update**

- The Resource Centre on Walker Road has now been demolished
- Belmont Green works have now finished creating a new pocket park for public use
- Restructuring within Newcastle City Council currently taking place
- HoW Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was consulted on between March and May 2008, is currently in the final draft format and will be considered for adoption by the P & T Strategy Committee on 22 January 2009
- Walker Road Post Office is due to close on 21 January 2009. Nick Brown, MP is campaigning to delay the decision until 2011 to allow a more informed decision about sustainability to be taken
- The Primary Strategy for Change was submitted by Childrens Services to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCFS) and was agreed with modification
  - The 3 areas for modification were:
    - They need to provide further detail explaining how the strategy is really going to deliver change to the primary education in the City
    - They need further information on how we are going to ensure that value for money is always achieved

## Heart of Walker (HoW) Update (continued/....)

- They need further information on how we will monitor and evaluate the projects to ensure it is contributing to the change in primary education in the city
- The first phase of priority cards are expected to be issued early in 2009

## HoW Next Steps

- Site investigations to be carried out
- Noise surveys
- Traffic assessment
- Bat Survey
- Submission of a outline planning application around the end of the current financial year (Mar 09)

## YHN Investment Delivery

- The current investment programme is due to end 2011
- £345 million to spend over 30,000 properties
- 22,400 properties have been improved
- 11,000 have been made decent with £275 million spent
- 3 homes are made decent every working hour

## Lightfoot Centre Update

- Following on from the Place making event the preferred option was to upgrade the Lightfoot Centre
- There are 3 planned stages that will only happen once funding is available
  - **Phase 1**
  - Redevelop the track i.e. 6 small pitches, 2 junior pitches and 1 full size pitch
  - Refurbish changing area
  - **Phase 2**
  - Upgrade the current infrastructure of the Lightfoot Centre
  - **Phase 3**
  - Extend the Lightfoot to include a health studio
- Free Family Christmas Party at the Lightfoot Centre on 18 December 2008

## Question and Answers

- Q.** When are Phase 1 priority cards being issued?
- A.** The first phase priority cards are due to be issued early in 2009. It is not envisaged that there will be delays on issuing priority cards in the subsequent phases
- Q.** How many of the River's Gate properties were let to Walker Riverside priority card users?
- A.** All 10 rental properties were offered to Walker Riverside priority card holders. 9 out of the 10 offers were accepted and are now occupied by Walker Riverside priority card holders
- Q.** How many properties will be available in March 2009?
- A.** The officers are not able to answer this question at this time. Will update everyone when the information is available

- Q.** Are the void houses on Walker Road due for demolition?
- A.** Yes, these will, hopefully all be demolished before the start of the next financial year
- Q.** What is happening to the Methodist Church?
- A.** Any decisions and designs regarding the church have to tie in with the Walker Riverside Area Action Plan. At this moment in time Newcastle City Council Property Services Department are still in talks with the Methodist Church about purchasing the land
- Q.** What is happening with the public transport services in Walker Riverside
- A.** Newcastle City Council are currently bidding for funding for the Q2 (Quayside yellow bus) service to be extended into Walker Riverside area, the decision about the funding will be in 2009  
Information regarding the Link Bus service will be in the next edition of the Walker Eye, January 2009
- Q.** What type of Supermarket is planned for the Heart of Walker?
- A.** The supermarket will be of a similar size to Safeway in North Tyneside, although no retailer has been confirmed at this time

### **Walker Riverside Information Centre Updates**

- There is now a jobs and training board updated regularly in the Information Centre
- Newcastle Futures have drop in sessions on Wednesday mornings to help people back into work, no appointment necessary
- Over 97 nominations have been received for the Pride Passion Potential Awards, to be judged week starting 17 November 2008 with the awards ceremony happening on Friday 5 December 2008

### **Any Other Business**

For any questions, queries or concerns regarding the regeneration within Walker Riverside call into the Information Centre on Walker Road which is open Monday to Friday, or alternatively call on 0191 2759207 where the Engagement Team will be more than happy to help