



**RIVERSIDE SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD FOCUS GROUP
TWO SESSIONS: 1 – 3 P.M. AND 6.30 TO 8.00 P.M.
ON TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2008
UPDATE**

Officers in attendance:

Jackie Jones, Walker Riverside Engagement Team
Jane Ormrod, Walker Riverside Engagement Team
Nick Launder, NCC Strategic Housing
Dawn Howe, Walker Riverside Regeneration Team
Craig Wilkinson, NCC Strategic Housing
Helen Anderson, NCC Strategic Housing
Karon Purvis, NCC Regeneration
Ann Todd-Mills, Your Homes Newcastle
Carol Hunter, East End Community Development Alliance

6 residents in attendance

Riverside South

- All of the identified properties within the Area Action Plan (AAP) have now been demolished
- Due to continued Anti Social Behaviour and letting problems Greenford Road flats have been demolished, no decisions confirmed for further use of the land at this time
- Master Planning Brief has been completed and Newcastle City Council have procured an urban design practice through existing framework agreements. This prevents the need to go through a lengthy procurement process and will enable the design work to be completed in April 2009
- A steering group will be set up to guide the design work and help establish at least three options for the external improvements of the Pottery Bank estate. The group consists of 1 representative from each partnership (NCC/YHN/PiP/BNG), a local member and two local residents, Lesley Cooper and Laura Webster
- Following the outcome of the Multi-storey review and the proposals set out in the Walker Riverside Area Action Plan, Northumbria University have been commissioned to explore options for tenure diversification and highlight the merits and any draw backs of the options

Your Homes Newcastle Investment Delivery

- The current investment programme is due to end 2011
- £345 million to spend over 30,000 properties Citywide
- 22,400 properties have been improved to date
- 11,000 have been made decent with £275 million spent
- 3 homes are made decent every working hour
- The internal improvement programme on the Pottery Bank retained estate has been brought forward and is due to start late January early February 2009
- External improvements are to happen in line with the Riverside South Steering Group Masterplan, with the external additional funding from ShiP (Social Housing Investment Pot)

Green Spaces – Next Steps

- Enslin Green Corridor:
 - finalising external funding package and progressing designs to submit outline planning permission
- Walker Riverside Park:
 - There is a planned weekend of action at the end of January 2009 following on from the successful week of action that took place in July 2008
 - Planned tree thinning begins winter 2008/09
 - Master planning of the whole of Walker Riverside Park continuing by Newcastle City Council

Questions and Answers?

- Q. What is planned regarding shops and retail units?
- A. The plans for the Heart of Walker were developed over a series of community events. The culmination of these developments was the production of a draft Supplementary Planning Document which was consulted on during April/May 2008. The SPD will be put forward for adoption in January 2009.
- Funding for the school is progressing.
- There is a commercial element to the Heart of Walker plans. Exact location is still to be determined.
- Q. There is very limited lighting on Hadrian's Way which contributes to reducing the use and adds to Anti Social Behaviour?
- A. The lighting in this area is currently being reviewed and will be increased. Riverside Park is to be kept as an exemplary environment area using renewable energy sources for lighting once in place
- Q. Where do the funds for the Green Space improvements come from?
- A. The funding comes from many different funding pots. For example all monies for contaminated land, such as the lead works, comes directly from Defra. Funding for green space does not take money from other areas i.e. development, housing

Q. Do any of the works have an affect on the wildlife?

A. No, none of the work is detrimental to the wildlife. The pruning of the trees is actually beneficial to wildlife.

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