



Walker Eye

March/April 2006

The Newsletter for the residents of Walker Riverside

Eye Spy

Page 2



On The Move

Page 2



Enslin Street Study

Page 3



Planning Aid

Page 3



Latest news on the plans for Walker Riverside

The Cambrian

Building work started on site in July 2005 and the first phase (1a) of 29 affordable homes for rent is now nearly complete. It is anticipated that the first residents will move into their new homes in June/July 2006. The next phase (1b) of 27 houses will start to be built in the autumn following demolition of empty properties. This will include the first properties for sale in the Cambrian. The total number of houses due to be built on the Cambrian is 143.

The Walker Bath Site

The former Walker bath site is located between Saffron Place, Airey Terrace and is adjacent to Wharrier Street.

The site has been demolished and Enterprise 5 will be developing seven units comprising of four bungalows for rent and three family houses to be offered on a shared ownership basis.

Shared ownership is a scheme to help people who cannot afford to buy a home outright. It is a low cost method of part owning and part renting a property with the option of gradually increasing the equity share until eventually you own the home outright.

Following planning approval, it is anticipated that works will commence in summer 2006.

The Stack Public House Site

This site is in a prominent position on Walker Road opposite the Walker Riverside Information Centre and the Dovercourt flats.

Proposed Stack site at Walker Riverside



The majority of the site was former housing stock which has been cleared, except for the former Stack public house which was recently acquired by Newcastle City Council and is scheduled to be demolished in the near future.

A planning application for 28, 3 & 4 bedroom family homes submitted by Bellway and Enterprise 5 has recently been approved. It is anticipated that works will commence in summer 2006. The newly built homes will be available for outright sale, rent and shared ownership.

Western Gateway

Following on from the success of the Place Making event in October 2005, work has commenced on progressing the three sites collectively known as 'The Western Gateway'. This area has been identified as an 'early action area' and includes:

McCutcheon Court Site

This area will be the first of the Western Gateway sites to be redeveloped creating approximately 110 new homes in a mixed-tenure development including rent, home buy and outright sale. There is also the potential to include a new small retail unit on the Walker Road frontage.

The site will be developed by Places for People, ensuring that throughout the planning and development process both the wider Walker Riverside community and more specifically those communities directly affected by the plans for the

Western Gateway, remain closely involved and informed during the delivery process.

The scheme will incorporate homes that achieve the Eco-homes 'very good' rating and are designed to Lifetime Homes principles.

At the recent community 'drop in session' at St Vincent's Church, local people had the opportunity to view the proposed designs and discuss with the developers and architects. The feedback gained from this event indicated that over 90% of the people that attended felt that the development would have a positive impact on the wider regeneration of Walker and all rated the proposed design as good, very good or excellent.

A detailed planning application is being prepared for submission by late April with the intention of commencing development on site by late September 2006.

The Allotments Site

This site was part of the larger Walker Road allotments which has recently been improved but reduced in size, leaving an area of surplus land identified for new housing.

Following the widespread public consultation on the Walker 'Decisions' options last October, Newcastle City Council is now preparing the detailed Draft Area Action Plan that will guide future planning applications in Walker. This will be submitted to the Secretary of State in June 2006, who will appoint a Planning Inspector to assess it. Once in place, this will allow proposed residential development on the site to be submitted for planning approval.

The Strip Site

This is a narrow but significant site on the corner of Walker Road and Allendale Road, behind Chatsworth Gardens. It will be key in ensuring that we can create a strong statement for those approaching Walker Riverside from Newcastle. At the recent McCutcheon Court consultation, local people saw examples from elsewhere and gave their first ideas as to what they would like to see at this 'gateway' into Walker.

Further work will take place over the coming months to establish the best use of this land and how it connects with the aspirations of the Walker Riverside community.



Walker Riverside

Eye Spy

In each issue of Walker Eye we will feature a member of the Walker Riverside Project Board. The Board meet every two months to discuss and take forward the regeneration of Walker Riverside.



Name: Betty Hutchinson

Position: Deputy Community Representative to Walker Riverside Project Board

Age: 85 years young

Live: Greenford Road, Pottery Bank, Walker

Favourite Music: Country & Western

Favourite TV Programme: Do not have time for TV, but when I get the chance I like to watch current affairs and news programmes

Best Books/Authors: Thrillers, Danielle Steele, Barbara Taylor Bradford

Hobbies/Interests: I have a full and active life and besides my reading, I am actively involved with the Walker 'Crazy Gang'. This is a group of people who come together on a voluntary basis and we put on shows for community groups, singing, performances etc. This is a real satisfying group and if you see the 'Crazy Gang' advertised, please come along and see us.

How long have you lived in Walker? I have lived in Walker all my life. I was brought up as a child on Pearson Street (not there anymore) next to Church Street and I went to the old West Walker School then I moved onto Middle Street Technical School.

I have lived in the Pottery Bank area all my life and when I was married we moved into the old pre-fab houses which were on the site of the current West Walker School. We moved into Greenford Road 47 years ago.

Walker is a great place to live and in particular Pottery Bank is great. There are still people on the estate who have been here as long as we have, the people are lovely, friendly and years ago everyone knew each other and we could trust each other in a close knit community, but things are changing now.

I have always been an active member of the community which has been an inspiration for me but also it has been frustrating as well.

What groups are you involved with? I am the secretary of the Pottery Bank Tenants Association, the Chairperson of the Walker Community Credit Union and the Thomas Gaughan Management Committee.

I am also involved with the Shields Road regeneration plans. I was involved recently as the Chairperson of the Health Project and involved with Your Homes Tenants Participation Panel.

Walker Regeneration: The whole community of Walker has been through the mill so to speak, regarding the regeneration programme for Walker. However, my most sincere wish is that the people of Walker are fully consulted at every stage as the regeneration programme is delivered as this is vital to the success of the regeneration.

I would love to see Walker Park, for instance, brought back to its previous status where people of Walker use the park for leisure and recreation and for all ages of people to use it. It is our park and it should be the place that we all feel ownership.

Project Director on the move

Anne Mulroy, Project Director for Walker Riverside will be leaving Places for People at the end of March 2006 to take up a new post as Director at Bridging NewcastleGateshead – the housing market renewal pathfinder.

Anne has been with the Walker Riverside project since the beginning in 2002 and, alongside the other partners, has been instrumental in taking this project forward and passionately believing in making Walker Riverside a place of choice for people to live and work.

Anne says: "Working in Walker Riverside for the last five years has been an incredible experience and also a challenge. I have met and enjoyed working with so many people across the area and wish the local community the very best for the future."

Anne will still be involved in Walker Riverside as Bridging Newcastle Gateshead are one of the key funders for regeneration in the area. Anne will also sit on the Walker Riverside Project Board as the representative for Bridging NewcastleGateshead.

Councillor Mike Cookson, Chair of the Walker Riverside Project Board said:

"Anne will be a huge miss to the project and all the team, partners and Project Board members wish her every success for the future in her new role."

"Working in Walker Riverside for the last five years has been an incredible experience and also a challenge. I have met and enjoyed working with so many people across the area and wish the local community the very best for the future."



Promoting Walker Riverside



(L-R) Stephen Patterson, Natalie Falkous, Kerrie Crammond and Stefan Lepkowski of the Karol Marketing Group.

The partners involved in Walker Riverside have recently appointed award winning PR and Marketing consultancy, Karol Marketing Group (KMG), to help the team with the promotion, publicity and communication of the Walker Riverside Project.

They will help ensure the communication between the Project Board, community and the press is consistent and clear—the best it can be in Walker so everyone knows what is happening and when.

KMG will promote Walker Riverside as a place of choice for people to live and work and as the development progresses this will support the new community and leisure facilities and encourage visitors to the area.

Based just along the road in Ouseburn, KMG, established in 1992, has a great understanding of what the Walker Riverside Regeneration Project wants to achieve for the residents and businesses in the area. It also has experience of working with other regeneration projects.

As well as this, the award winning company has extensive local knowledge, and with staff living in Walker they live and breathe it and understand how the community feels.

If you have any positive news about what is happening in Walker and would like to feature in publicity material, please contact Natalie Falkous or Kerrie Crammond on 0191 265 7765.

Planning Aid North can help you

Planning Aid North has secured funding to provide continuing support to both individuals and communities who are affected by regeneration in Walker.

As the £525m Walker Riverside regeneration programme continues through its consultation stages, Planning Aid North are on hand to guide you through what is happening with regards to planning in the area.

Ray Anglesea has been appointed by Planning Aid as a full time community Project (Regeneration) Officer to provide free, independent community support and planning advice on what is happening in Walker Riverside. Ray's appointment will allow for further community participation and involvement as the plan goes through the next stages.

Planning Aid North has spent the last 12 months helping and supporting community groups and individuals in Walker as the consultation exercises and Area Action Plan have progressed through their statutory stages.

If you would like free, independent advice on what is happening in Walker Riverside, Ray is very keen to meet groups and individuals in the area who might benefit from the Planning Aid service.

Contact Ray on 0191 222 5776 or ntco4@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk

Alternatively, you can contact Ray at

**Planning Aid North
RTPI Regional Office,
3rd Floor, Claremont Tower
University of Newcastle upon Tyne
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU
Fax: 0191 222 5669**

Ray will also be available at the Thomas Gaughan Centre on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons between 2pm and 3pm, if you would like to call in and see him.



Biography

Ray Anglesea has 30 years experience in local government as a Town Planner. Qualifying in 1975, Ray worked for two years for the Municipal Council of Mombasa, Kenya, prior to an appointment with Durham County Council.

As part of a team, Ray was responsible for the production of Durham County Council's County Structure Plan and Local Plans.

In January 2005, Ray was awarded an MA by Durham University for his work in Regeneration Areas. He is an ordained minister in the United Reformed Church and has wide experience of working with the voluntary sector.

Planning Aid North has good experience of delivering planning studies to young people.

Enslin Street Feasibility Study

Various events have been held about the plans for Enslin Street. Residents in the surrounding area were invited to drop in sessions on 14 February and 6 & 7 March at St Anthony of Egypt Church on Belmont Street. 76 people came long to see what has been proposed and to put forward any ideas they had for the area.

Two events were also held especially for 56 children and young people at the Thomas Gaughan Centre on 11 & 18 February in conjunction with NCH, Young Voices, City Council's Play & Youth Section and Planning Aid.



A coffee morning was also held for 17 older people at Belmont Methodist Church on 21 February.

The plans for Enslin Street include creating an improved environment within the neighbourhood and assessing future land use.

A further round of consultations will be held in the next 2 to 3 months which will give you the opportunity to view choices for the area based on previous events held and comments from local residents. Watch out for the leaflets coming through your door!

Walker Riverside Information Centre and showhomes will be closed from 1pm on Friday 14 April and re-open on Monday 24 April at 10am.

Walker Eggstravaganza

What a difference a year makes! Our Walker Riverside project is progressing well and to celebrate the showhomes' first birthday we are organising an eggstra special event on Good Friday – 14th April at 11am.

The Walker Riverside Easter bunny will visit the showhomes on Church Street to host an Easter egg hunt. We are inviting local children to take part – with a special prize going to the winner who finds the hidden egg.

With cakes and treats galore a great time is guaranteed. Simply fill in the tear off slip and send it in to the address below. The first 20 entrants will win a place in the hunt—you'd be hopping mad to miss it.

Please return to the address below before 5 April:

Name:

Age:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone number:

Please return to:
Walker Riverside Information Centre
9a Church Street
Walker
NE6 3XF

You can also drop this form into the team between Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm OR post through the letterbox on the right hand side of the Information Centre.

Are you?

- Over 60
- a disabled person
- an asylum seeker
- a refugee

Do you want to learn more about the Walker Riverside Regeneration Plans?

If so, contact Karen at Walker Riverside Community Engagement Team on **0191 263 4826** who will be happy to help you.

Walker Community Credit Union

The Walker Community Credit Union is available for all residents of Walker where you can save money on a regular basis. The Credit Union also has a Junior Savings club for children aged (0 – 16).

The Credit Union is open for new members, collections & withdrawals:

Mondays 9:30am to 12noon

Fridays 9:30am to 12:30pm

(1419 Walker Road, Walker Resource Centre)

Other collection points are

Walker Parish Church Thursdays 10:30am

St. Anthony's of Padua Church Fridays 10am to 12:30pm

**For further information please ring 07779989172
(The Walker Community Credit Union is regulated by
the Financial Services Authority)**



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 29 March 6pm

Thomas Gaughan Centre

Refreshments available, Everybody welcome

Would you like be involved on a focus group looking at the Western Gateway area of Walker?

We are looking for people in the area around the Western Gateway of Walker which includes the sites of McCutcheon Court, the old allotments site and the site just below St. Peter's Allotments.

We would like to hear from people who want to be involved in the plans for development of this area. This would mean meeting on an opportunity basis as and when things start to happen.

If you would like further information please contact Andy, Community Engagement Manager on 0191 262 8980.

