



**WESTERN GATEWAY NEIGHBOURHOOD FOCUS GROUP
TWO SESSIONS: 1 – 3 P.M. AND 6.30 TO 8.00 P.M.
ON TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2008
UPDATE**

Officers in attendance:

Helen Sammut-Smith, Your Homes Newcastle
Dawn Howe, Walker Riverside Regeneration Team, Newcastle City Council
Jackie Jones, Walker Riverside Community Engagement Team
Karen Brown, Walker Riverside Community Engagement Team
Graham Whitehead, Bridging Newcastle Gateshead
Pc Ian Hedley, Walker Community Beat Manager
Debra Lagun, Walker Ward Co-Ordinator
Karon Purvis, Walker Riverside Regeneration Team, Newcastle City Council
Zoe Walter, Walker Riverside Regeneration Team, Newcastle City Council
Peter Aviston, Places for People
Ann Todd-Mills, Your Homes Newcastle
Carol Hunter, East End Community Development Alliance
Jonathon Higgins, Transportation Officer, Newcastle City Council
Alex Marshall, Places for People (River's Gate Sales Manager)

16 local residents were in attendance.

River's Gate Update

- First phase of 66 homes will be completed by December
- River's Gate Housing in the final 3 of the Journal Landmark Awards in the Development category.
- Housing in front of River's Gate to be demolished and the land grassed over until the start of Phase 2 of River's Gate which is currently in consultation.

Draft East Area Transport Plan

- The Draft East Area Transport Plan outlines how improvements to the transport system in the East Area can be achieved for pedestrians, cyclists, bus and car users. The document will be taken to Public Consultation early 2009.
- Newcastle City Council will take over Parking Enforcement within the city from February 2009.
- There is a proposal to extend the Q2 (quayside yellow bus service) into Walker in April 2011. A funding bid has been submitted and details will be announced in January if successful.
- The January edition of the Walker Eye will detail the Link Bus service
- Newcastle City Council are planning a trial of a Car Club scheme in the Heart of Walker, participants will pay a monthly subscription of approx £12 to share a car.

YHN Investment Delivery

- Modern Homes Programme to be completed by 2011
- 3 homes are made decent every working hour
- 250 properties in St Anthony South are programmed for internal improvements which will take 4 weeks per property and a year to complete the estate, external improvements to be programmed in before 2011.
- St Anthony's Road railings to be completed for remaining properties not improved.
- Properties are now popular to let.

Northumbria Police

- Pc Hedley, Pc Stoker and Pc Lowes are the Walker Community Beat Managers, contact the officers on 03456 043043 to report any issues of concern regarding crime and community safety. If the matter is urgent dial 999.

Newcastle City Council Regeneration Update

- Projected 2011 start on the Allotments housing development. Previous work done with residents has formed a Development Brief. Sketch designs from this will come back to the community to view and comment. Site investigations are to be carried out.
- An Open Space Needs Assessment has identified the need for play facilities in Harbottle Park. In January it will be announced if a funding bid has been successful to carry out improvements. If successful consultation will start for this at the end of January.
- 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 if a bid to the forestry Commission is successful. Outcome will be known in April 2009
 - Initial studies are taking place to develop a master plan for Walker Riverside Park by Newcastle City Council
 - Heart of Walker SPD to go to Planning and Transport Committee in February.
 - Oval landscaping completed in April, padlocks for the small gate are being looked into for maintenance access only.

Issues of Local Concern

- From 31st August 2008 there have been changes in services 106 and 18. Service 106 only runs from 9.57 to 14.57 and 10.16 until 15.16 to return to Walker Road. Service 18 on Saturdays runs from 9.48 hourly to 12.18 up to Shields Road, and from Shields Road 9.05 to 12.05 and then half hourly onwards. If we are a regeneration area we require improved public transport and some of the regeneration funding to be allocated to public transport and an improved structure for the poor public transport the present services provide. *(This is a statement presented at the meeting from a local resident).*

Questions and Answers?

- Q. When will the landscaping be completed on River's Gate?

A. The landscaping is programmed in according to seasonal planting season it is programmed to finish in Feb '09.

Questions and Answers? (Continued.....)

Q. Will the speed ramp remain at the top of Evistones Gardens outside the entrance to River's Gate?

A. Speed ramp has been removed.

Q. No-one knows about the Link-Up Bus and who is allowed to use it.

A. Details of the Link-Up bus to be put into the January edition of the Walker Eye.

Q. Will there be retail provision in the 2nd Phase of River's Gate?

A. Planning permission that was granted for River's Gate included the use of the north east corner of the site adjoining Walker Rd and Evistone Gardens for office use. A new planning application would be required to change the use if this proposed property is to be a retail shop. At the present time there is no agreed programme for the building out of the phases fronting onto Walker Rd which would include this property.

Q. River's Gate Residents noted they had not received the Walker Eye.

A. Community Engagement Team to ensure delivery agents are aware of tenanted properties for future deliveries.

Q. Can bus shelters be put onto Walker Rd as the bus stops are very exposed to the weather?

A. Further to this enquiry I have been in contact with Newcastle City Council Planning and Transportation department. Residents can contact Sarah Jefferson (Transportation Officer) 0191 2778959 to identify the location of the requested bus shelters on Walker Rd, she will then forward the request to the relevant department in Newcastle City Council.

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, these will be judged week starting 17 November 2008. The awards ceremony will take place 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

