

**MEETING: COALFIELD STATE OF THE AREA EVENT****HELD ON: 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2013 5.30 P.M. – 8.30 P.M.****BETHANY CHRISTIAN CENTRE, HETTON ROAD, HOUGHTON LE SPRING, DH5 8PF****Issue Log**

1	Tenants of Grasswell allotments driving across the grassed play area. Play area needs improving	
	Response/ Action	Improvement work to be completed by RLS as part of a mini makeover of play sites. <b>To be monitored and reported back to Area Committee</b>
	Response/ Action	Allotments officers have spoken with tenants to discourage driving over the grass. <b>To be monitored and reported back to Area Committee</b>
2	Hawthorn Street play areas, allotments and problems from youths driving across and around the play areas. The young people are abusing the area and a gate and lock was put on to keep them out but this has been vandalised.	
	Response/ Action	<b>To be reported back to Area Committee</b>
3	Potential for increased fly tipping due to charging for bulk waste collection	
	Response/ Action	Assistant Head of Street Scene to monitor the situation. <b>Will be monitored via RLS Street Scene priority at Place Board</b>
4	Public toilets in Houghton le Spring	
	Response/ Action	Toilets are available in some of the shops and other services which public can use. No action to be taken. The City Council do not have any funding to invest into public toilets. <b>No further action to be taken</b>
5	Horses tethered and exercised at grassed playing area Balfour Street/Stanley Street/Houghton le Spring. Children cannot now use the grass and are playing on the street and causing disturbance. Increased anti social behaviour has led to calls to the Police.	
	Response/ Action	Due to the number of factors to consider the issue will be taken to LMAPS to agree a multi agency solution.
	Update	Officers are looking into developing a policy based on the Clean Neighbourhood act to tackle the nuisance horse grazing on open land. <b>To be reported back via Place Board</b>
6	Insufficient focus on environmental objectives within Area Committee priorities. Request that Area Committee consider adopting environmental priorities as submitted	
	Response/ Action	The issues submitted by the resident will be considered by Area Committee
	Update	Suggested for inclusion in the Committee Work Plan: <i>(i) to increase awareness, value and usage of the natural environment in the Coalfield Area</i>  <i>(ii) to initiate and support activities aimed at enhancing and protecting the natural environment and the wildlife it supports;</i>  <i>(iii) to work with the community and appropriate groups, agencies and statutory bodies to improve and protect the environment and wildlife;</i>  <i>(iv) to ensure access to and enjoyment of the countryside in the Coalfield Area by all sections of the community.</i>

		Through the Place Board Neglected Land priority and Love Where You Live project a number of small scale environmental projects to protect the natural environment have been developed and delivered. The VCS Network encourages local community groups to become involved with the work of Area Committee. <b>Area Committee to consider at the June 2013 meeting.</b>
7	Increase in housing developments in the Coalfield area. Consideration to be given to type of houses required including social and affordable housing.	
	Response/ Action	15,000 new homes will be built in the City over the next 20 years. 20% will be in the Coalfield area. Planning policy documents are currently being developed and residents will be consulted and have the opportunity to give their views from June 2013. <b>Area Committee structures will promote the consultation process.</b>
8	Water flowing near Tyre Spot at Houghton le Spring	
	Response/ Action	Water appears to be coming from Biffa Waste Disposal site. <b>Northumbrian Water is to undertake a survey to determine the problem.</b>
9	Concerns about the future of the school mini bus service taking pupils to St Mary's Church School	
	Response/ Action	Due to financial cuts, there are difficult choices to make regarding service provision. There is a formal consultation process taking place and the parents of the school will be part of this exercise. <b>No further action for Area Committee</b>
10	Flooding and overflowing drains during heavy rain at Simpson Grove resulting in raw sewage in gardens and drives. The system can't cope now and there are proposals for more housing developments which will exacerbate this situation and other infrastructure issues. The same issues were raised about Easington Lane and other areas. Can residents have a plan which shows the drainage system.	
	Response/ Action	The Council are aware of the problems and are working with Northumbrian Water and the Environment Agency who have responsibility to resolve the back sewage which is not acceptable. The issue of drainage and correct infrastructure is a priority. With any new proposal for housing a referral is sent to the Highways Authority and a detailed study of the area is taken into account regarding access points and safety. <b>Senior officers spoke to residents individually after the meeting and will keep them updated with regard to actions and timescales. Flood Risk Planning has been selected by Area Committee as a Place Board Priority</b>
11	Biffa Waste Disposal Services have been challenged on a number of occasions and residents are concerned about the Houghton Quarry landfill site. Thousands of people signed the petition for the site to be closed but it seems to still be operating without a current licence. Why was an application for blasting approved?	
	Response/ Action	There are two applications from Biffa Waste Disposal Services pending consideration and will be forwarded to the Planning and Highways Committee. Any approval to carry out blasting is not yet valid as the discharge conditions need to be met. <b>Information is provided on the Council's website.</b>

12	Is there any plan to develop the land on the Kentmere House site which has been derelict for sometime?	
	Response/ Action	There are no firm plans at present but a housing developer has shown an interest in the land. <b>Further updates will be given when available</b>
13	Over 3 years ago the Council agreed that every estate would be given a 20 mile per hour speed limit. Speeding is an ongoing issue – is there a plan to implement the speed limit.	
	Response/ Action	A survey identified that the priority areas are Silksworth and Downhill which had the highest evidenced need. When funding allows the priority list will be worked through but there are no immediate plans for this area.
14	Proposed open cast mine in Pittington will have a negative impact on residents at Moorsley and nearby area	
	Response/ Action	The application will be made to Durham Council as the local planning authority for this location. Sunderland Council can only respond when an application has been received by Durham Council and they consult with Sunderland as a neighbouring authority. However Strategic Planning and Highways will look at the application and request that <b>Durham Council to consult with Sunderland residents.</b>
15	The cross roads at Newbottle is unsafe. The traffic lights get knocked down at least once a month	
	Response/ Action	This issue is being investigated by Network Management, Street Scene
16	In percentage terms how many private developers have been refused permission to build and which developers are they	
	Response/ Action	There are no figures to hand but the public access planning website will give these details