Sunderland North Area Workshop
Greenspace Consultation 2
24 January 2011 at Bunny Hill.

Attendance list:
Cllr Shattock   Sunderland City Council
Cllr Copeland   Sunderland City Council
Cllr Bell   Sunderland City Council
Ben Winter   Planning Implementation, SCC
Pauline Hopper   SCC Area Officer (Coalfield)
Julie Lynn   SCC Area Officer (North)
Amanda Cantle   SCC North Community Coordinator
Clive Greenwood   SCC Planning Services
Andrew Dorrian   SCC Planning Services

Purpose of Workshop:
1) To explain progress on the Greenspace Audit and demonstrate improvements made since the first consultation in October 2010
2) To gain a better understanding on the local value of greenspaces. This includes:
   - scoring and mapping all greenspace sites in terms of their quality and local value, and making sure that the scoring is correct
   - Asking what the most important types of greenspace are in the area
   - Asking what makes a greenspace site valuable to local people
   - Asking what types of greenspace people would like to see more of
   - Asking how far local people would travel to use different types of greenspace
   - Asking what the most important greenspaces are to local people, and what makes them so good.

Results

Question 1a) A discussion centred around the need for site values to be boosted in some cases because of their importance. Some reasons should be so strong it should be deemed a 'showstopper', whereas other reasons might recommend a 'weighting' given to site scores.
   - Cemeteries and churchyards – these should be treated as 'showstoppers'.
   - Allotments- these need to be given a weighting, as their scores at present are too low and do not represent their true importance. There are, however, parts of the city where there is deemed to be a surplus in allotment provision, so these sites should not be given 'showstopper' status.
   - Green Corridors – sites that support green corridors should be given a weighting, as they support a wider strategic need/benefit.
   - It is important to link into development plans that may affect or potentially affect certain greenspace sites. The example discussed was the Seaburn Masterplan.
   - Coast – very important and should be offered strong protection (it is already given European protection in terms of biodiversity).
   - Historic significance is presently underplayed, particularly for Listed Buildings and archaeological sites.
   - Other aspects such as: Green Belt, site rarity, defines character should be considered for weighting.

Question 1b) People were asked to list any specific sites that they thought were wrongly scored on the value map displayed at the meeting. Sites mentioned were:

- Shields Road allotments (A47)
- University land beside Seaburn Camp (A89)
- Marley Potts / Wembley Road (B08)
- Fulwell Quarries (B73)
- Sites on Seaburn and Roker coasts will be examined in more detail by Planning Implementation

Question 2: What are the most important types of greenspace?
(Individuals are asked to rank 10 types of greenspace, 1=most important, 10-least important).

Greenspace Type	Ranking
Local and Neighbourhood Amenity Space	2+6+4+9+9+5+10= 6.4
Allotments	9+9+7+8+10+5+1= 7
Civic Spaces	2+4+3+6+9+10+8= 6
Cemeteries and Churchyards	8+8+6+10+6+7+3= 6.9
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	3+3+5+2+5+4+6= 4
Parks	4+2+2+4+3+3+10= 4
Connected Corridors of Greenspace	7+6+8+3+7+8+4= 6.1
Play Areas	5+7+4+7+1+9+9= 6
Outdoor Sports Facilities	6+10+10+5+8+1+7= 6.7
The Coast	1+1+1+1+2+2+5= 1.9

In the meeting, the clear winner is the Coast, followed by Parks and Natural Greenspace. Outdoor Sports Facilities, Cemeteries & Churchyards, and Allotments scored lowest.

Question 3: What makes a Greenspace site valuable to you?
(Individuals were asked to record their ideas onto post-it notes. Then all were given 15 votes and asked to vote on their preference).

Results:
"Sports facilities", "multi-use", "variety"	= 23 votes
"Cleanliness" "well maintained"	= 18 votes
"Safe"	= 18 votes
"Trees", "wildlife"	= 15 votes
"Accessible" "within walking distance" "walking opps"	= 14 votes
"Views", "peace and quiet"	= 10 votes
"Seats"	= 9 votes
"The streetscape needs 'softening'"	= 4 votes
"Location"	= 3 votes

"Welfare facilities"	= 3 votes
"Café"	= 2 votes
"Alternative links"	= 1 votes
"All-inclusive facilities"	= 0 votes
"Green Belt between houses"	= 0 votes

Question 4: What types of greenspace provision would you like to see more of in your area?
(Again, individuals were asked to record their ideas onto post-it notes. Then all were given 15 votes and asked to vote on their preference).

Although there were single requests for "play areas", ""civic spaces", "sports provision" and a couple of requests for "parks and formal gardens", the overwhelming majority and support was for the "improvement of existing sites".

Question 5: How far would you be prepared to travel to use / enjoy?
(Individuals were asked to consider a range of distances that they would consider appropriate for 9 types of greenspace).

Type of Greenspace	Choose A,B,C,D,E,F or G
A formal park?	C,D,G,C,G,D = D average
A neighbourhood or local greenspace?	A,D,A,A,C,B = A average
An allotment?	D,B,B,C,D,C = C average
A natural or semi-natural greenspace?	D,D,C,C,G,E= D or E average
The countryside?	G,D,G,G,G,F = G average
A bridleway or cycleway through a connected corridor of greenspace?	C,C,E,C,D,B = C average
A play area?	B,A,A,B,C,G = B average
A sports facility?	C,B,D,F,G,C = D average
The coast?	G,C,G,G,G,G = G average

<5min walk?	<10min walk?	<15min walk?	Within a mile or so?	2-3 miles?	4-5 miles?	More than 5 miles?
A	B	C	D	E	F	G

Question 6: People were asked to list the most important individual greenspace sites to them. For the North area, the following sites were identified:

- The Green, Southwick
- Thompson Park
- Wearmouth Cricket Club
- Fulwell Quarries
- Sea Front / Coast
- Riverside C2C
- Cycle paths
- Roker Park

- Cornthwaite Park
- Mowbray Park
- Seaburn Rec

Other Comments:
- This consultation will be made available in paper format and electronically over the coming months and circulated widely across the city.